

## Document history

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# Appendix 8

## Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA)

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## Glossary

Term	Definition
Baseline Studies	Work done to determine and describe the environmental conditions against which any future changes can be measured or predicted and assessed.
Characteristics	Elements, or combination of elements, which make a contribution to distinctive landscape character.
Designated Landscape	Areas of landscape, identified as being of importance at international, national, regional or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents.
Development Direct Effect	Any proposal that results in a change to the landscape and /or visual environment.
Elements	An effect that is directly attributable to the proposed development Individual parts which make up the landscape, such as for example, trees, hedges and buildings
Indirect Effects	Effects that result indirectly from the proposed development as a consequence of the direct effects, often occurring away from the site. This may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects.
Key Characteristics	Those combinations of elements which are particularly important to the existing character of the landscape and help to give an area a particularly distinctive sense of place.
Landform	The shape and form of the land surface, which has resulted from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical process.
Landscape	An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
Landscape Character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes the landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
Landscape Character Areas	These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.
Landscape Character Assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscape distinctive. The process results in the production of a e Landscape Character Assessment.
Landscape Effects	Effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right.
Landscape Receptors	Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by the proposed development.
Land Use	What land is used for, based on broad categories of functional land cover, such as agricultural, forestry, urban.
Photomontage	A visualisation which superimposes an image of the proposed development upon a photograph or series of photographs.

Term	Definition
Quality	A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.
RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
Scoping	The process of identifying the issues to be addressed by an Environmental Impact Assessment.
Sensitivity Significance	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that response. A measure of the importance of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic.
Study Area	The geographical extent of land included within the assessment of effects on landscape character and visual amenity, measured from the outer most turbine of the proposed development.
Susceptibility	The ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences.
Tranquillity	A state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of the landscape.
Value	The relative value that is attached to landscapes by society. A landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a variety of reasons.
Visual Amenity	The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of the activities of the people loving, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.
Visual Effects	Effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.
Visual Receptors	Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by the proposed development.
Visualisation	A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the proposed appearance of the development.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	A map, showing areas of land within which, the proposed development is theoretically visible.

## List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BBNP	Brecon Beacons National Park
BCBC	Bridgend County Borough Council
BGCBC	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
CC	Cardiff Council
CCBC	Caerphilly County Borough Council
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
CCSC	City & County of Swansea Council
CLVIA	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act
DNS	Development of National Significance
GCC	Gloucester City Council
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
HC	Herefordshire Council
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments & Sites
Km	Kilometre
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LDP	Local Development Plan
LNRs	Local Nature Reserves
LSA	Local Search Areas
LVIA	Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
MCC	Monmouthshire County Council
MTCBC	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
NCC	Newport City Council
NCR	National Cycle Route
NPTCBC	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PAA	Pre-Assessed Area
PCC	Powys County Council
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
PROW	Public Right of Way
RCTCBC	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

Abbreviation	Description
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Sites
RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
SBC	Soltys Brewster Consulting
SINC	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SSA	Strategic Search Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TAN	Technical Advice Note
TCBC	Torfaen County Borough Council
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
VILL	Visually Important Local Landscape
VoGC	Vale of Glamorgan Council
WG	Welsh Government
WHS	World Heritage Site
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

## A8.1. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### Scope

A8.1.1. The Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) Chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) will assess effects on the physical landscape within the site boundary, together with the wider landscape character and visual amenity extending to a distance of 45 km from the outermost turbine. The LVIA will assess the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the proposed development, which would last up to 50 years.

### Guidance

A8.1.2. The assessment will adopt a methodology developed in accordance with the following current guidance:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition. Landscape Institute with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013);
- Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments, NatureScot, (March 2021);
- Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3, NatureScot (2017);
- NRW Guidance Note 046, 'Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, (LVIA),' January 2021;
- Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2, NatureScot (February 2017);
- Visual Representation of Development Proposals – Technical Advice Note 06/19, Landscape Institute (September 2019), including supporting Technical Information Notes 07/19, 08/19 and 09/19;
- An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment – To Inform Spatial Planning and Land Management, Natural England (June 2019); and
- Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations -Technical Guidance Note 02/21, Landscape Institute (2021).

A8.1.3. The assessment will be in accordance with best practice guidance. In order to provide a less prescriptive approach, there will be an emphasis on creating a narrative approach to describing the landscape and visual effects and any judgements made on their significance. The assessment will follow the methodology set out.

### LANDMAP and Landscape Character Areas

A8.1.4. LANDMAP is a complete all-Wales geographic information system (GIS) based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set. It offers a mapped, contextual baseline of landscape information about landscape character, qualities and values, in which the greater detail of a LVIA can be set.

A8.1.5. LANDMAP comprises five spatially related datasets:

- Geological Landscape;
- Landscape Habitats;
- Visual & Sensory;
- Historic Landscape; and
- Cultural Landscape Services.

A8.1.6. Landscape Character Areas (LCA) within the 45 km study area with theoretical visibility of the proposed development will be determined based on, where available, published landscape character assessments. Where these are not available the LCA's will be determined using boundaries and typologies within the LANDMAP aspect areas, predominantly Visual and Sensory. These character areas are illustrated on figure 8.31.

A8.1.7. NRW Guidance Note 046, 'Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, (LVIA),' (January 2021) requires an early desk search stage to help to identify the extent of study area needed for the detailed LVIA and to provide an evidence basis for the inclusion or exclusion of landscapes within the adopted study area.

A8.1.8. To ensure the LVIA focusses on potentially sensitive landscape receptors within aspect areas most likely to be affected, a four-step filtering process has been applied to the LANDMAP datasets to ascertain those that are required to be assessed within the LVIA.

A8.1.9. For Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats and Cultural Landscape Services aspect areas/datasets, the initial search area, (Filter 1), includes areas that overlap fully or partially or are adjacent to the development site boundary. Further filtering (Filters 2, 3 and 4) has then been applied, relating to the relationship to other aspect areas, theoretical visibility, evaluation scoring and /or specific characteristics, such as rarity/uniqueness, (Geological Landscape) or connectivity/cohesion, (Landscape Habitats). Aspect areas in which the proposed development is located are in all cases retained for assessment within the LVIA irrespective of their evaluation or any special characteristics.

A8.1.10. For Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscape, the initial search area (Filter 1) adopted by the LVIA extends across the entire 45 km study area. Further filtering (Filters 2, 3 and 4) was then applied, relating to theoretical visibility, overall evaluation scoring for both Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscape and high sensitivity visual receptors. Consideration of Scenic Value (Q48) and Character (Q48) were also applied to help filter areas evaluated as moderate overall.

A8.1.11. Cultural Landscape Services does not include landscape evaluation information, retain all aspect areas identified from filter 1 includes areas that overlap fully or partially or are adjacent to the site boundary. Further filtering, Filter 3 has then been applied, relating to theoretical visibility.

A8.1.12. Professional judgement was then applied to identify the LANDMAP Aspect Areas to be retained within the study area and to be taken forward for further assessment, based on the following criteria:

- Extent/proportion of the aspect area receiving theoretical visibility;
- Distance from the proposed development to the aspect area;
- Proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development;
- Number of turbines proposed development likely to be visible; and
- Characteristics of the aspect area influencing potential visibility, such as forestry, built form.

A8.1.13. The filtering exercise identified aspect areas where significant effects may potentially occur. The intention is to ensure that the LVIA focusses on those LCA's where significant effects are most likely, and these are taken forward for further detailed assessment in Section 8.7 and 8.8.

A8.1.14. A further filtering exercise was carried out to determine LCA's where potential for significant cumulative effects may occur. Where LCA's were identified, (irrespective of LANDMAP aspect area values), these were also added for inclusion in the LVIA baseline and assessment sections.

A8.1.15. Table A8.15 identifies the filtered aspect areas and the justification for inclusion or exclusion from detailed assessment in sections 8.7 and 8.8.

A8.1.16. For all LCA's excluded from the LVIA, it is considered that there will be no significant effects on landscape character.

A8.1.17. The LANDMAP Aspect Areas identified following the GN46 filtering are illustrated on Figures 8.22- 8.30.

A8.1.18. The LCAs identified where potential for significant effects may occur and are to be included within the LVIA are illustrated on Figure 8.32.

### Methodology

A8.1.19. In accordance with best practice and available guidance and in order to provide a less prescriptive approach through an emphasis on creating a narrative approach to describing the landscape and visual effects and judgements made on their significance, the assessment will follow the methodology set out. Criteria for determining these effects are provided within the tables that follow.

### Significance of Landscape Effects

A8.1.20. The significance of effects on landscape character will be determined in part by combining the sensitivity of each landscape character area with the magnitude of change that may occur.

A8.1.21. Sensitivity is a reflection of judgements made on the value and susceptibility of the landscape as outlined.

#### Value

- Higher value landscape may be those, for example, with high scenic quality, high conservation interest, recreational value, important cultural associations or a high degree of rarity, such as National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). Conversely lower value landscapes may be those that are of poor condition and/or intactness, limited aesthetic qualities, or of character that is widespread and are unlikely to be formally designated.

#### Susceptibility

- Landscapes with higher susceptibility may be those where the character of the landscape offers very limited opportunities for the accommodation of change without key characteristics being fundamentally altered by wind energy development, leading to a different landscape character. Landscapes with lower susceptibility may be those where the character is resilient to being changed by wind energy development, perhaps due to the large scale of the landscape, simplicity or the presence of contemporary man-made features.

A8.1.22. The criteria for informing the sensitivity, magnitude and the significance of effects on landscape character are demonstrated in the following tables.

Table A8.1: Landscape Sensitivity

Sensitivity	Description
High	A landscape highly sensitive to wind farm development of the size proposed, by virtue of the inherent physical form and elements, aesthetic and perceptual qualities that form its character. The landscape will be unique, rare, contain valued features and will be designated at a national or local level. The landscape may be highly susceptible to change and considered to be of high value.
Medium - High	A landscape sensitive to wind farm development of the size proposed, by virtue of the inherent physical form and elements, aesthetic and perceptual qualities that form its

Sensitivity	Description
	character. The landscape will be unique, rare, contain valued features and will be designated at a national or local level. The landscape may be susceptible to change and considered to be of high value.
Medium	A landscape where a wind farm development of the size proposed may be accommodated to some degree without affecting overall character, by virtue of its inherent physical form and elements, aesthetic and perceptual qualities. The landscape may display some characteristics and features that are considered to be susceptible to change and/or value and may be designated at a local level, although not exclusively so.
Medium - Low	A landscape where a wind farm development of the size proposed may be accommodated without affecting overall character, by virtue of its inherent physical form and elements, aesthetic and perceptual qualities. The landscape may display some characteristics and features that may be susceptible to change and/or value.
Low	A landscape where a wind farm development of the size proposed may be more readily accommodated, by virtue of its inherent physical form and elements, aesthetic and perceptual qualities that form its character. The landscape may be of generally low susceptibility to change and of low value.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Table A8.2: Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

Magnitude	Description
High	The proposed development will be a dominant key characteristic and would result in substantial loss or major alteration to key elements of landscape character to the extent that there is a fundamental and permanent change to landscape character. The change may occur over an extensive area.
Medium - high	The proposed development will be a prominent characteristic and would result in major loss or alteration to key elements of landscape character to the extent that there is a considerable change. The change may occur over a wide area and for a duration extending into the foreseeable future.
Medium	The proposed development would result in the loss or alteration to key elements of landscape character to the extent that there is a partial change to landscape character that may have a duration extending from the medium term or into the foreseeable future. The change may occur over a notable area.
Medium - Low	The proposed development would result in minor loss or alteration to key elements of landscape character to the extent that there is a slight change to landscape character. The change may be temporary or occur over a limited area.
Low	The proposed development would result in such a minor loss or alteration to key elements of landscape character that there would be no fundamental change.

Source: Soltys Brewster

**Table A8.3: Significance of Landscape Effects**

Significance	Description
<b>Major</b>	The proposed development is likely to become a defining landscape characteristic across a significant proportion of the LCA. The landscape may be categorised as being of high sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Major/Moderate</b>	The proposed development is likely to become a prominent, but not necessarily defining landscape characteristic across a wide proportion of the LCA. The landscape may be categorised as being of medium or high sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Moderate</b>	The proposed development is likely to be a component of landscape. However, it would not become a defining landscape characteristic. The landscape may be categorised as being of medium sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Moderate/Minor</b>	The proposed development is likely to have little, or no effect on existing landscape character. The landscape may be categorised as being of medium or low sensitivity, but not exclusively so.
<b>Minor</b>	The proposed development is likely to be integrated into the existing landscape without having a material effect upon any key landscape attributes. The landscape may be categorised as being of low sensitivity but not exclusively so.

Source: Soltys Brewster

- A8.1.23. Effects determined to have major or major/moderate landscape significance will be considered to be significant. Conversely, where it is determined that effects are moderate/minor or minor will be considered not significant.
- A8.1.24. Where effects are determined to be of moderate significance, whether these effects are significant or not significant will depend on the individual and specific mitigating circumstances and the professional opinion of the landscape specialist will determine this.
- A8.1.25. A precautionary approach has been adopted and unless otherwise stated, all effects are considered to be adverse.

### Significance of Effects on Visual Amenity

- A8.1.26. The significance of effects on visual amenity will be determined by combining the sensitivity of the visual receptors with the magnitude of visual change that would occur.
- A8.1.27. Sensitivity is a reflection of judgements made on the value and susceptibility of visual receptors as outlined.

#### Value

- Higher value may relate to views that may be recorded in management plans, guide books, or may be associated with designated landscapes; or designed views recorded in citations for historic parks and gardens or other cultural features. Lower values may relate to views which may not be documented or protected. They may also perhaps be views which are more incidental, and less likely to be associated with somewhere people travel to or stop.

#### Susceptibility

- Higher susceptibility visual receptors may be those whose attention or interest is focused on their surroundings, including communities/ individual residential receptors/ people engaged in outdoor recreation/ visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views of surrounding landscape is an important

contributor. Lower susceptibility visual receptors may be those whose attention is not on their surroundings (and where setting is not important to the quality of working life) such as commuters/ people engaged in outdoor sports/ people at their place of work where views of the surrounding landscape is not an important contributor.

A8.1.28. The criteria for informing the sensitivity, magnitude and the significance of effects on visual amenity are demonstrated in the following tables.

**Table A8.4: Sensitivity of Visual Receptors**

Sensitivity	Description
<b>High</b>	Receptors highly responsive to new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors would be highly susceptible to change and considered to be at a location that may be valued for its views. Receptors would typically include occupiers of residential properties and people engaged in recreational activities in the countryside such as using public rights of way, country parks or heritage assets.
<b>Medium-high</b>	Receptors responsive to new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors would be susceptible to change and considered to be at a location that may be valued for its views. Receptors would typically include people engaged in recreational activities in the countryside such as using public rights of way, country parks or heritage assets.
<b>Medium</b>	Receptors are able to accommodate new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors may be susceptible to change, although may not be at a location valued for its views. Receptors would typically include people engaged in outdoor sporting activities and people travelling through the landscape on minor (B and below) roads and trains.
<b>Medium-low</b>	Receptors are able to accommodate a degree of new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors are unlikely to be susceptible to change, or at a location valued for its views. Receptors would typically include people engaged in outdoor sporting activities and people travelling through the landscape on minor (B and below) roads and trains.
<b>Low</b>	Receptors are able to accommodate a high degree of new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors are unlikely to be highly susceptible to change or at a location of valued for its views. Receptors would typically include people at place of work and people travelling through the landscape on A roads and motorways.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Table A8.5: Magnitude of Visual Impacts

Magnitude	Description
<b>High</b>	The proposed development would be an immediately apparent feature that would occupy a wide proportion of the view, contrasting with existing built features within the view. It would affect and change the overall appearance of the view and to which other features would become subordinate. The proposed development is likely to be visually dominant. Views of the proposed development are likely to be from close distance and long in duration.
<b>High - medium</b>	The proposed development would be an apparent feature that is likely to occupy a significant proportion of the overall view. The development may contrast with existing features within the landscape. The proposed development is likely to be visually prominent to the extent that it would affect and change the appearance of a number of key existing elements within the view. Views are likely to be medium to short distance and long in duration.
<b>Medium</b>	The proposed development would form a recognisable new element within the overall view and would be readily observed without changing the overall nature of the view. Overall quality of the view may remain intact. The proposed development is likely to be visible although not prominent. Views are likely to be medium distance and moderate in duration.
<b>Medium - Low</b>	The proposed development would form a component of the wider view that might be missed by the casual observer. Awareness of the development would not have a marked effect on the overall quality of the view. The proposed development may be visible although not prominent. Views are likely to be medium to long distance and glimpsed or brief in duration.
<b>Low</b>	The proposed development would be barely perceptible, or imperceptible, and would have no marked effect on the overall quality of the view. The proposed development is unlikely to be visible or restricted to long distance views that would be glimpsed or very brief in duration.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Table A8.6: Significance of Visual Effects

Significance	Description
<b>Major</b>	The proposed development would be visually dominant and would affect existing views to the extent that defining existing visual elements would become subservient within the view. When viewed within the context of the landscape, the dominance of the proposed development would be seen to conflict with existing visual amenity. Receptors may be categorised as being of high sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Major - Moderate</b>	The proposed development would be visually prominent and may lead to the loss of or reduction in integrity of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Receptors may be categorised as being of medium or high sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Moderate</b>	The proposed development would result in some alteration to landscape features which contribute to the existing visual character or quality, but the overall integrity of the landscape and its visual qualities are maintained. The proposed development may be suitably absorbed or accommodated within the view alongside existing visual elements. Receptors may be categorised as being of medium sensitivity but not exclusively so.

Significance	Description
<b>Moderate - Minor</b>	The proposed development would be visually integrated within the existing landscape without the loss of essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Receptors may be categorised as being of medium or low sensitivity, not exclusively so.
<b>Minor</b>	The proposed development would be integrated into the existing landscape without having a material effect upon the distinctive and valued characteristics of the view. Receptors may be categorised as being of low sensitivity but not exclusively so.

Source: Soltys Brewster

A8.1.29. Viewpoint locations from where effects are determined to have major or major - moderate visual significance will be considered to be significant. Conversely any locations where it is determined that visual effects are minor or moderate - minor, visual effects will be considered not significant.

A8.1.30. Where effects are determined to be of moderate significance, whether these effects are significant or not significant will depend on the individual and specific mitigating circumstances relating to each viewpoint and the professional opinion of the landscape specialist will determine this. For example, effects from a particular viewpoint may be considered to be of moderate visual significance. However, the broad nature of the view in which the proposed development would be seen may reduce these effects to an extent where effects would still be considered to be moderate though not considered to be significant. Conversely, moderate significance may in some instances be considered to be significant where similar effects may be experienced over a large area or corridor, such as along a length of footpath.

A8.1.31. A precautionary approach has been adopted and unless otherwise stated, all effects are considered to be adverse.

### Cumulative Effects

A8.1.32. In addition to assessing the individual effects of the proposed development on landscape character and visual amenity, the LVIA will also assess the cumulative effects of consented, and those wind farms submitted for planning. Cumulative effects relating to the addition of operational wind farm developments are considered as part of the LVIA baseline condition.

A8.1.33. Given the potentially large number of wind farm developments, including single and low number turbine developments within the 45 km study area from the assessment. The criteria listed are also proposed so that the assessment can focus on only the wind farm developments that are likely to contribute to significant cumulative effects on landscape character and visual amenity:

- All existing, consented and submitted turbines within a 5 km radius of the outer most Manmoel turbine;
- All existing, consented and submitted turbines with a blade tip height of 30 m or more within a 5 km – 15 km radius of the outer most Manmoel turbine;
- All existing, consented and submitted turbines with a blade tip height of 60 m or more within a 15 km – 25 km radius of the outer most Manmoel turbine;
- All existing, consented and submitted turbines with a blade tip height of 90 m or more within a 25 km – 35 km radius of the outer most Manmoel turbine; and
- All existing, consented and submitted turbines with a blade tip height of 120 m or more within a 35 km – 45 km radius of the outer most Manmoel turbine.

A8.1.34. It is proposed that the same viewpoints used to assess the individual effects on visual amenity will be used to illustrate cumulative effects. Cumulative wind farms to be included within the LVIA, based on the methodology described above and on information currently available are listed in Table A8.7.

Table A8.7: Cumulative Wind Farms

Name	Distance to nearest Manmoel turbine (km)	No. of Turbines	Hub Height	Tip Height
<b>Operational</b>				
Pant-y-Wal Windfarm Extension	26.33	12	80	125
Fforch Nest (Mynydd Pwllyrhebog extension)	24.25	4	70	115
Maerdy	21.72	8	95	145
Maesgwyn	13.48	13	70/80	110-125
Maesgwyn Ext	14.16	1	80	125
Ferndale	14.95	8	51	76
Mynydd Bwlfa	13.81	12	70/80	115/125
Pant-y-Wal	11.89	10	70	115
Pant-y-Wal Ext	25.60	8	80	125
Llynfi Afan Renewable Energy Park	4.37	12	78	118
Pen-y-Cymoedd	2.92	76	89.5	143.5
Cruglwyn (Manmoel Road)	0.73	1	60	86.5
Cruglwyn 2 (off Manmoel Road)	0.24	1	60	86
Pen Rhiw Gwaith Farm	2.26	1	60	86.5
Pen-yr-hoel Farm	2.70	1	50	77.9
Bedlwyn Farm	2.43	1	60	86.5
Gelli Wen Farm	3.22	1		
Pen Bryn Oer	3.98	2	55	100
Eurocaps Ltd	3.26	2	30	45
Former Tech Board Site (Rassau Ind Est)	5.40	1	46	78

Name	Distance to nearest Manmoel turbine (km)	No. of Turbines	Hub Height	Tip Height
Unit 15 (Rassau Ind Est)	4.09	1	43.5	72
Pen y Fan Ganol Farm	4.53	1	50	73.5
Blaentillery Farm	5.90	2	30	45
Coed y Gilfach Farm	6.90	2	30	45
Unit 29/Waldrons Commercials Unit	5.70	1	46	74
Cefn Bach Farm	5.30	1	50	78
Groesfaen Farm	5.90	1	50	77
Oakdale Business Park	6.40	2	80	130
Pen y Fan (Ind Est)	6.60	1	85	123
Tir Cook Farm	10.80	1	50	77
Pengarnddu Ind Est (Unit 3) (Meat Factory)	8.40	1	50	77
Pengarnddu Ind. Est (plot 5)	8.50	1	50	77
Cefn Fforest Farm	11.20	1	50	77
Bryn Ysgawen Farm	13.60	1	50	77
Castell Llwyd Farm	13.30	1	50	77
Tyle Crwth	14.30	1	50	76
Bwlfa Farm	24.00	-	50	76
Ffynnon Oer Windfarm	32.50	16	58	93
G24i	28.75	1	85	135
Nash Treatment Works	27.50	1	80	130
Newport South Docks	26.30	2	85	126
Solutia	27.10	2	80	130
Longlands Lane Wind Turbine	31.40	1	60	100

Name	Distance to nearest Manmoel turbine (km)	No. of Turbines	Hub Height	Tip Height
Mynydd Portref Extension	27.10	6	70	110
Tesco Distribution Centre	30.6	2	68	100
Parc Stormy Down	41.90	1	87.5	125
Newton Down	42.10	2	80	125
Avonmouth Docks	43.00	3	85	131
Accolade Wines	43.70	1	85	130
Bristol Sewage Treatment Works	44.50	4	80	126.5
Former Shell Tank Site	43.50	2	85	131
<b>Consented</b>				
Unit 18 (Rassau Ind Est)	4.09	1	54	80
Unit 19 Rassau Industrial Estate	5.20	1	54	80
Pengarddu Industrial Estate (plot 3)	8.95	1	50	65
Pengarddu Industrial Estate (plot 3)	8.95	1	40	57
Land At Graig-yr-hufen Road	15.10	1	50	77
Penyfan Leisure Park	5.10	3	24	31
Cefn-y-brithdir Farm	5.00	1	25	36
Clearwell Farm	22.20	1	45	67
Abergorki	21.80	3	100	150
Pant y Wal Extension (Phase 2)	26.50	2	80	125
Melin Court	32.00	5	100	145
Foel Trawsnant	35.12	11	100	145
Maesgwyn (extension)	31.00	3	-	-

Name	Distance to nearest Manmoel turbine (km)	No. of Turbines	Hub Height	Tip Height
Severn Road	43.40	1	92	150
<b>Application</b>				
Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd.	1.70	1	75	103
Rhiw Felin Fach	24.25	1	59	90
Llwyncelyn Farm	18.70	2	72.5	131
Nant-y-Gwyddon former landfill site	22.70	1	58	99
Upper Ogmore	28.80	7	77.5 97.4	130 149.9
Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn	2.90	8	105	180
Mynydd Llanhilleth	6.90	8		180
Llwyncelyn Farm Resubmission	18.67	2	72.5	131

Source: Soltys Brewster/Natural Power

- A8.1.35. The significance of cumulative effects on landscape character will be determined by combining the sensitivity of the LCA with the magnitude of cumulative change that would occur. Note that sensitivity in respect of cumulative effects would be the same as identified for individual effects and therefore the same criteria as identified in Table A8.1 would be applied.
- A8.1.36. A precautionary approach has been adopted and unless otherwise stated, all effects are considered to be adverse.
- A8.1.37. The criteria for informing the magnitude and the significance of cumulative effects on landscape character are demonstrated in the following tables.

Table A8.8: Magnitude of Cumulative Landscape Impacts

Magnitude	Description
<b>High</b>	The additional impact of the proposed development and other cumulative wind farm developments would result in major loss of, or major alteration to key elements of the landscape, to the extent that there would be a fundamental change to its character. The change may occur over an extensive area.
<b>High - medium</b>	The additional impact of the proposed development and other cumulative wind farm developments would result in significant loss of, or major alteration to key elements of the landscape, to the extent that there would be a significant change to its character. The change may occur over a large area.
<b>Medium</b>	The additional impact of the proposed development and other cumulative wind farm developments would result in the loss of or alteration to key elements of the landscape, to the extent that there would be a partial change to its character. The change may occur over a limited area.

Magnitude	Description
<b>Medium - Low</b>	The additional impact of the proposed development and other cumulative wind farm developments would result in a loss, or alteration to key elements of the landscape, to the extent that there may be some slight perception of change to its character. The change may occur over a limited area.
<b>Low</b>	The additional impact of the proposed development and other cumulative wind farm developments would result in such a minor loss of or alteration to key elements of the landscape that there would be no fundamental change to its character.

Source: Soltys Brewster

**Table A8.9: Significance of Cumulative Landscape Effects**

Significance	Description
<b>Major</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would alter the landscape character to the extent that it would become defined or considerably influenced by the presence of wind farm developments. The landscape may be categorised as being of high sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Major - Moderate</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would alter the landscape character to the extent that it would become considerably influenced by the presence of wind farm developments. The landscape may be categorised as being of medium or high sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Moderate</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would alter the landscape character to the extent that it would become influenced by the presence of wind farm developments. The landscape may be categorised as being of medium sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Moderate - Minor</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would alter the landscape character to the extent that it would become influenced by the presence of wind farm developments but without the loss of key underlying landscape attributes. The landscape may be categorised as being of medium to low sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Minor</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would be integrated into the existing landscape without the loss of key underlying landscape attributes. The landscape may be categorised as being of low sensitivity but not exclusively so.

Source: Soltys Brewster

- A8.1.38. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity will be determined by combining the sensitivity of the visual receptors with the magnitude of cumulative change that would occur. Note that sensitivity in respect of visual receptors would be the same as identified for individual effects and therefore the same criteria as identified in Table A8.4 would be applied.
- A8.1.39. A precautionary approach has been adopted and unless otherwise stated, all effects are considered to be adverse.
- A8.1.40. The criteria for informing the magnitude and the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are demonstrated in the following tables.

**Table A8.10: Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts**

Magnitude	Description
<b>High</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would increase the scale of wind farm development in the landscape to a level which would dominate views.
<b>High - medium</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would be an apparent feature that is likely to occupy a significant proportion of the overall view. Wind farm development is likely to be visually prominent within the view.
<b>Medium</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would result in a noticeable increase in wind farms within the view. However, this increase would not result in the wind farms being visually prominent within the view.
<b>Medium - Low</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would be visible but would form components of the view that might be easily missed by the casual observer. They would not contribute to the overall prominence of wind farms within the view.
<b>Low</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would be barely perceptible, or imperceptible, and would have no effect on the perception of wind farms within the view.

Source: Soltys Brewster

**Table A8.11: Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects**

Significance	Description
<b>Major</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would result in the view becoming defined, or considerably influenced by wind farm development. Receptors are likely to be of high sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Major - Moderate</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would be visually prominent, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Receptors are likely to be of high or medium sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Moderate</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments may be a noticeable addition to views. However, their additional effects would not cause the overall visual character of the view to become defined by wind farm development rather than by other elements of the existing view. Receptors are likely to be of medium sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Moderate - Minor</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments may be a perceptible component of the wider view, although might be missed by the casual observer. Awareness of the proposed development and other cumulative wind farms would not have a marked effect on the overall quality of the view. Visual receptors are likely to be of medium or low sensitivity but not exclusively so.
<b>Minor</b>	The addition of cumulative developments to the proposed and operational developments would have no additional effect on existing views. Visual receptors are likely to be of low sensitivity but not exclusively so.

Source: Soltys Brewster

## A8.2. RESIDENTIAL VISUAL AMENITY ASSESSMENT (RVAA) METHODOLOGY

- A8.2.1. A separate Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) for properties up to 2 km from the outermost turbines of the proposed development will be produced and provided in Appendix A8.7.
- A8.2.2. The RVAA will focus on private views and private visual amenity from residential properties.
- A8.2.3. The methodology for the RVAA will follow the LVIA Technical Guidance Note 2/19 RVAA. However, the guidance is not prescriptive, and it recognises that every project will require its own set of criteria and thresholds, tailored to suit local conditions, circumstances and the potential scale of impacts. The methodology outlined has been adapted to reflect the extent and number of potential residential receptors within the immediate context of the study area.
- A8.2.4. It will comprise of the following steps.

### Stage 1: Define the RVAA Study Area and Identify Properties and Property Groupings to be Assessed

- A desk-based study to locate, name and map onto an OS base map at 1:10 000 scale residential properties that fall within 2 km of a proposed turbine. Where possible, commercial and other non-residential uses will be identified and excluded from the RVAA.
- A desk and field-based appraisal/analysis and scoping exercise to identify broad groupings of properties likely to share common baseline visual characteristics. This will be informed by:
  - Site/field study;
  - ZTV's, mapping and aerial photos;
  - Degree of screening from topography/landform;
  - Degree of enclosure/screening from vegetation;
- Settlement pattern/form. A variety of properties exist within the study area, including, individual properties and farmsteads, traditional terraces extending along and up the valley sides, post war estates and more recent infill development;
- Undertake a further 'scoping' exercise through desk and field-based assessment from publicly accessible locations to identify and exclude from the assessment properties/property groups unlikely to experience significant visibility of the proposed development, through consideration of baseline visual characteristics, the detailed ZTV and wirelines where necessary;
- A property location plan will be prepared to show the location of properties/property groupings to be included/excluded in the RVAA; and
- Prepare a schedule of properties/property groupings to be taken forward/excluded to Stage 2 of the RVAA.

### Stage 2: Evaluate Baseline Residential Visual Amenity (RVA) of Properties/Property Groups taken forward for Assessment

- Review and describe the broad existing baseline visual conditions of properties/property groups within the study area identified for assessment through desk and field study, including an appraisal of the general type, nature, extent and quality of views that may be experienced 'in the round' (combined or all-round visual amenity experience at, or from a property/property group) from the property/property groupings as a whole. This will include consideration of:
  - The proximity of and relationship to surrounding landform, landcover and visual foci; and
  - The broad nature of existing views from properties/property groupings.

### Step 3: Assess Change to Visual Amenity of Properties Likely to Experience Significant Effects

- Assess the likely change in terms of magnitude and significance of effects to visual amenity of properties/property groups, where significant visibility is possible or likely. The assessment would be carried out from publicly accessible locations representing the worse-case scenarios wherever possible within each grouping or near to properties. The assessment will consider aspects such as:
  - Distance from the proposed development. In general terms the greater the distance, the lower the magnitude of change, as the wind farm will become less evident or significant within the view;
  - Type/nature of available views;
  - The number and proportion of the turbines and extent of the wind farm that will be visible from the property or group of properties;
  - Predominately the fewer turbines or proportion of turbines that are visible, the less the magnitude of effects;
  - Prominence of the proposed development in views. Typically, the more prominent the turbines the greater the magnitude of effects;
  - The proportion of the view that is affected by the wind farm. If the extent of the view from the property/group of properties is occupied by turbines then the magnitude of effects are likely to be higher than if turbines are visible within only a small proportion of the view;
  - The scale and character of the landscape in which the wind farm will be viewed. Effects may be greater in an intimate, small-scale landscape where the turbines are dominant within the landscape as opposed to a simple, large-scale landscape where the turbines may be viewed at a more appropriate scale;
  - Orientation of the view towards the wind farm in relation to the main or secondary views from the property/group of properties. Views that have direct views towards the wind farm are likely to have a higher magnitude of effects than properties with an indirect/oblique or secondary view of the wind farm;
  - Other existing and consented wind farms and built structures within the view; and
  - Identify individual properties/property groups where significant effects warrant further detailed assessment in Step 4. (i.e. where predicted effects may potentially breach the RVA Threshold).

### Stage 4: Detailed Assessment of Individual Properties/Property Groups Identified in Stage 3 as having the Greatest Magnitude of Change such that the RVA Threshold may be Engaged

- Individual properties/property groups identified in Stage 3 as having the greatest magnitude of change, (i.e. the worst-case scenarios within each grouping) will be identified and assessed in further detail, through desk-based assessment and a site visit to within the curtilage of each property/group of properties. A judgement will then be made as to whether predicted effects are likely to reach or exceed the RVA threshold. Where appropriate, a representative property will be selected for detailed assessment of property groups; and
- A description of effects will be provided for properties/property groupings, supplemented with 90° wireline from each of the properties/group of properties to illustrate the view of the proposed development.

### Criteria for the Assessment of Effects

A8.2.5. A precautionary approach has been taken and it is assumed that the sensitivity of visual receptors will be high for all residential properties within the study area. Magnitude of impact on visual amenity (i.e. views and visual appreciation and enjoyment of the landscape) will be categorised as high, medium and low.

Table A8.12: Magnitude of Impacts

Magnitude	Description
<b>High</b>	The proposed development will be an immediately apparent feature that will affect and change the overall appearance of the view from the property/group of properties and to which other existing features will become subordinate. The proposed development is likely to be visually dominant.
<b>Medium - High</b>	The proposed development will be an apparent feature that is likely to occupy a significant proportion of the overall view from the property/group of properties. The development may contrast with existing features within the landscape. The proposed development is likely to be visually prominent to the extent that it will affect and change the appearance of a number of key existing elements within views from the property/group of properties.
<b>Medium</b>	The proposed development will form a recognisable new element within views from the property/group of properties and will be readily observed without changing the overall nature of the view. Overall quality of views may remain intact. The proposed development is likely to be visible although not prominent.
<b>Medium - Low</b>	The proposed development will form a component of the wider view that might be missed. Awareness of the development will not have a marked effect on the overall quality of the view from the property/group of properties. The proposed development is likely to be visible.
<b>Low</b>	The proposed development will be barely perceptible, or imperceptible, and will have no marked effect on the overall quality of the view from the property/group of properties.

Source: Soltys Brewster

A8.2.6. Criteria to gauge the significance of visual effects will be dependent on the magnitude of visual change, and the relationship between visual sensitivity as detailed in Table A8.13.

Table A8.13: Significance of Effects

Significance	Description
<b>Major</b>	The proposed development will be an immediately apparent feature that will affect and change the overall appearance of the view and to which other existing features will become subordinate. The proposed development is likely to be a visually dominant and unavoidable feature from the property/group of properties.
<b>Major - moderate</b>	The proposed development would be visually prominent from the property/group of properties, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view.
<b>Moderate</b>	The proposed development will form a recognisable new element from the property/group of properties and will be readily observed without changing the overall nature of the view.

Significance	Description
	The proposed development is likely to be visually prominent and potentially unavoidable, although the overall quality of the view may remain intact.
<b>Moderate - minor</b>	The proposed development will form a component of the wider view from of the property/group of properties. Awareness of the development will not have a marked effect on the overall quality of the view. The proposed development is likely to be visible, although not dominant and potentially avoidable.
<b>Minor</b>	The proposed development will be barely perceptible, or imperceptible, and will have no marked effect on the overall quality of the view from the property/group of properties.

Source: Soltys Brewster

A8.2.7. Properties/groups from where effects are determined to have major or major-moderate visual significance will be considered to be significant. Conversely any locations where it is determined that visual effects have minor or moderate to minor visual significance, will be considered to be not significant. Where effects are determined to be of moderate visual significance, whether these effects are significant or not significant will depend on the individual and specific mitigating circumstances relating to each property.

## A8.3. LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

### UK Wide Policy and Legislation

#### *The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949*

A8.3.1. This Act allows for the designation of National Parks. These have two statutory purposes:

- To conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and
- To promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of these special qualities.

A8.3.2. Responsibility for the management of National Parks is guided by National Park Authority's and a range of partner organisations. The Statutory Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP), extending across the north of the study area, are described further within the local policy section.

#### *Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CroW) Act 2000*

A8.3.3. This Act provides for the designation of areas which (not in a national park) are of outstanding natural beauty and significant landscape value. Responsibility for management of AONB is through a Local Authority Advisory Authority or Partnership. The Wye Valley AONB extends across land to the east of the study area. The Wye Valley AONB Management Plan is described further in the Local Planning Policy section.

#### *National Planning Policy*

##### *Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11, (February 2021).*

A8.3.4. This document sets out land-use planning policy set by Welsh Government (WG). It is the foundation of all national, regional and local planning policy and is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), WG Circulars, and policy clarification letters. Together with PPW, these provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. The primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. PPW

also recognises the rich and varied landscapes of Wales, covered by a hierarchy of statutory and non-statutory designations, including National Park's and AONB's. PPW also supports the use of the National Resources Wales (NRW) LANDMAP Information System as an important information resource to inform baseline landscape character assessment within Wales.

### Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 (February 2021)

- A8.3.5. Future Wales builds on PPW and provides a national spatial strategy setting out where Wales should focus development to address key national priorities through the planning system until 2040. It provides the national tier and sets the direction for strategic and local development plans as well as complementing PPW with a shared commitment to placemaking and towards national ambitions and well-being goals. Together, PPW and Future Wales set out how the planning system should respond to and address national challenges and opportunities.
- A8.3.6. Pre-Assessed Areas (PAAs) for wind development are identified within the Plan, subject to Policies 17 and 18. The majority of the proposed development is located within FWPAA 10. Modelling of the likely impact on the landscape within PAAs carried out in the production of Future Wales indicates that they are capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way. There is, therefore, now a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy within these areas, subject to specific criteria identified in Policy 18, including where proposals:
- *“Are outside PAAs for wind developments, the proposal does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding landscape (particularly on the setting of National Parks and AONB's);*
  - *Will have no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby community's and individual dwellings;*
  - *There are no adverse effects on the integrity of internationally designated sites ... and the features for which they have been designated; and*
  - *Will have no unacceptable adverse impacts on statutory protected built heritage assets”.*
- A8.3.7. Future Wales policy now removes and supersedes reference to both TAN8. It provides a stronger position for decision makers to support wind energy developments and recognises that the contribution that such schemes make towards renewable energy targets should be given greater weight in decision making. Within PAAs, a greater degree of landscape change is now more likely to be acceptable. Outside PAAs, proposals for renewable projects qualifying as Developments of National Significance (DNS) may be permitted providing there are no unacceptable impacts, including those relating to landscape and visual matters.

### Technical Advice Notes

- A8.3.8. TAN8: Planning for Renewable Energy (2005) has now been superseded by Future Wales – The National Plan 2040, as described. This includes replacement of Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) with PAAs for wind development.

### Local Planning Policy

- A8.3.9. The proposed development is predominantly located in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, although its south western corner extends in to Caerphilly County Borough Council. A further 14 local authorities exist, plus the BBNPA, either partially or fully within the 45 km radius study area. However, from the following Local Authority areas, the ZTV (refer to Figure 8.12) indicates that there will be either no or very limited potential visibility and/or the Local Authority area is located at a distance where effects are unlikely to be significant. These local authorities are noted and will not be considered further in subsequent sections of the LVIA.
- Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC);
  - Cardiff Council (CC);

- Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC);
- Gloucestershire County Council (GCC);
- Herefordshire Council (HC);
- Monmouthshire County Council (MCC);
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC);
- Newport City Council (NCC);
- Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC); and
- City & County of Swansea Council (CCSC).

- A8.3.10. Policy relating to landscape and visual matters found within the adopted Local Development Plans (LDP) for the remaining five local authorities, plus the BBNPA, within the 45 km radius study area are noted.

### Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) LDP 2006 – 2021

#### SP10 PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- A8.3.11. Blaenau Gwent's unique, natural environment and designated landscape will be protected, and, where appropriate, enhanced. This will be achieved through:
- a) *“Protecting, enhancing and managing Cwm Merddog Woodlands/Coed Ty'n y Gelli and Brynmawr Sections and Mynydd Llangynidr Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);*
  - b) *Ensuring that development does not have a significant effect on the neighbouring Usk Bat Site, Cwm Clydach Woodlands, Aberbargoed Grasslands, Sugar Loaf Woodlands or the River Usk Special Area of Conservation (SAC);*
  - c) *Ensuring that the locally identified Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species are protected and enhanced;*
  - d) *Protecting those attributes and features which make a significant contribution to the character, quality and amenity of the landscape;*
  - e) *Maintaining and enhancing the Green Infrastructure including creating a network of local wildlife sites and wildlife corridors, links and stepping stones;*
  - f) *Ensuring development seeks to produce a net gain in nature conservation by designing in wildlife, and ensuring any avoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated for; and*
  - g) *Ensuring development proposals do not have an unacceptable adverse impact upon the water environment and contribute to improving water quality where practicable”.*

#### SP11 PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- A8.3.12. Blaenau Gwent's distinctive built environment will be protected, preserved and, where appropriate, enhanced. This will be achieved through:
- a) *“Safeguarding nationally designated sites from inappropriate development and also protecting locally designated buildings of significant importance and conservation areas;*
  - b) *Enhancing sites of historic or archaeological value; and*
  - c) *The promotion of heritage tourism”.*

**ENV2 SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS**

A8.3.13. Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are identified and will be protected at the following locations:

1. St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides;
2. Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James;
3. Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn;
4. Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail;
5. Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides;
6. Cefn Manmoel;
7. Trefil and Garnlydan Surrounds; and
8. Beaufort Common.

A8.3.14. Development within the defined SLAs will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area.

**Caerphilly County Borough Council LDP 2006-2021****SP10 CONSERVATION OF NATURAL HERITAGE**

A8.3.15. CCBC will protect, conserve, enhance and manage the natural heritage of the County Borough in the consideration of all development proposals within both the rural and built environment.

**SP12 DEVELOPMENT OF THE VALLEYS REGIONAL PARK**

A8.3.16. Development proposals that contribute to the Valleys Regional Park will be permitted provided that there is no adverse impact on areas of recognised environmental or landscape importance.

**CW4 NATURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION**

A8.3.17. Development proposals that affect locally designated natural heritage features, will only be permitted:

- A. Where they conserve and where appropriate enhance the distinctive or characteristic features of the SLA or Visually Important Local Landscape (VILL);
- B. Within, or in close proximity to sites designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS), Green Corridors, or Local Priority Habitats and Species, where proposals either:
  - i. "Conserve and where appropriate enhance the ecological or geological importance of the designation, or;
  - ii. Are such that the need for the development outweighs the ecological importance of the site, and where harm is minimised by mitigation measures and offset as far as practicable by compensation measures designed to ensure that there is no reduction in the overall value of the area or feature".

**NH1 SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS)**

A8.3.18. Special Landscape Areas are identified and will be protected at the following locations:

- NH1.1 Upper Rhymney Valley;
- NH1.2 Gelligaer Common;
- NH1.3 Mynydd Eglwysilan;
- NH1.4 North Caerphilly;

- NH1.5 South Caerphilly; and
- NH1.6 Mynyddislwyn.

**N2 VISUALLY IMPORTANT LOCAL LANDSCAPES (VILL)**

A8.3.19. Visually Important Local Landscapes are identified and will be protected at the following locations:

- NH2.1 Northern Rhymney Valley;
- NH2.2 Manmoel;
- NH2.3 Abercarn; and
- NH2.4 Rudry.

**LE3 PROTECTION OF COUNTRY PARKS**

A8.3.20. Country Parks that contribute to the Valleys Regional Park are protected at the following locations:

- LE3.1 Parc Bryn Bach, Rhymney /Tredegar;
- LE3.2 Parc Cwm Darran, Deri;
- LE3.3 Parc Coetir Bargod, Greater Bargoed;
- LE3.4 Parc Penallta, Ystrad Mynach;
- LE3.5 Penyfan Pond, Croespenmaen; and
- LE3.6 Sirhowy Valley Country Park, Ynysddu /Crosskeys.

**Brecon Beacons National Park Authority LDP (2007-2022)****SP2 MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE NATIONAL PARK – STRATEGIC POLICY**

A8.3.21. The LDP states that the BBNPA will 'rigorously apply the required tests in respect of major development in the National Park, which should only take place in exceptional circumstances where proven to be in the public interest.'

A8.3.22. This will include an assessment of:

- a) "The need for the development, including any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;
- b) The cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and
- c) Any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which these could be moderated".

**POLICY 12 - LIGHT POLLUTION**

A8.3.23. An objective of the National Park Management Plan is to minimise light and noise pollution. Dark night skies are recognised as a key contributor to the sense of tranquillity and remoteness which is often cited as a key special quality of the National Park. The following policy therefore seeks to protect dark night skies from the impact of lighting and to relate any lighting proposed to its purpose, such as site security or floodlighting recreational facilities, so that careful design and the use of appropriate means of lighting and lighting levels minimise the impact on adjoining areas. There is also a possibility that light pollution could adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site where development coincides with roost sites/transit routes for bats and other light sensitive species.

- A8.3.24. Proposals which individually or cumulatively have an unacceptable adverse effect on dark night skies will be resisted.
- A8.3.25. The National Park Authority will prepare Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to provide further guidance on the implementation of this policy.
- A8.3.26. Proposals where lighting is required shall include a full lighting scheme and will be permitted:
- a) “where the lighting proposed is appropriate to its purpose; and,
  - b) where there is not a significant adverse effect individually or cumulatively on:
    - i. the character of the area;
    - ii. local residents;
    - iii. vehicle users;
    - iv. pedestrians;
    - v. biodiversity;
    - vi. the visibility of the night sky; and
    - vii. 'dark corridors' for bats and light sensitive species”.

#### POLICY 20 HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

- A8.3.27. Development which directly or indirectly, either alone or in combination affects those areas listed within Part 1 of the 'Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales' will be permitted where the essential integrity and coherence of the park or garden and its setting, as defined in the Register, is preserved or enhanced.
- A8.3.28. Development should be of a high standard and minimise disturbance to heritage features. If disturbance is unavoidable, a full recording survey will be required in advance of development.

#### POLICY 21 - HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

- A8.3.29. Development which directly or indirectly either alone or in combination affects those areas listed within Part 2 of the 'Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales' will only be permitted if the essential integrity and coherence of the area, as defined in the Register, is preserved or enhanced.

#### World Heritage Sites

- A8.3.30. Development within the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site is covered by National Policy. The World Heritage Site lies partly within the National Park. The area includes the town of Blaenavon outside the National Park as well as land surrounding, some of which lies within the National Park. The boundary also now includes parts of Govilon.

#### SP9 - RENEWABLE ENERGY

- A8.3.31. Proposals for renewable energy schemes will only be permitted where:
- a) “they are of a scale and technology appropriate to their location; and
  - b) they do not have a significant adverse impact on the Natural Beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage and special qualities of the National Park”;
- A8.3.32. Proposals for Renewable Energy Schemes defined as Major Development will be considered against the tests set out in Policy SP2.

- A8.3.33. “Strategic Policy SP9 also integrates the general national presumption against the provision of large-scale renewable energy projects within the Park. Such schemes have significant landscape impacts which are considered at a national level to be in conflict with the purposes of designation of the National Park as a protected and special landscape. We do however acknowledge the need to provide for such development, and areas identified at a national strategic level (TAN 8) as being suitable for development should be encouraged. However, these schemes have the potential to impact on the National Park, it is therefore imperative that we remain as statutory consultees within this process and have due influence on the siting and design of future proposals located on the fringes of the National Park. All development for large scale renewable energy proposals which are likely to impact on the National Park will be required to demonstrate how considerations for the special qualities of the National Park have been taken into account in developing the proposal. Proposals will be required to address impact from key landscape viewpoints and demonstrate to the satisfaction of the NPA that no negative impact on the special qualities will result”.

- A8.3.34. The impact of large-scale Renewable Energy projects located on our peripheries will be judged in accordance with SP2 Major Development in the National Park.

#### BBNPA Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

- A8.3.35. The following SPG has been prepared by BBNPA and which are relevant to the development.

#### LANDSCAPE AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPG) JUNE 2014

- A8.3.36. This SPG and Appendix 3 Area Profiles provides supporting information on the implementation of the National Park Authority's adopted Local Development Plan.

#### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY 21 LIGHT POLLUTION & OBTRUSIVE LIGHTING (SPG) MARCH 2015

- A8.3.37. This SPG relates to the installation of external lighting and been produced to explain how Policy 12 (Light Pollution) of the LDP should be applied in practice.

#### BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT AUGUST 2012

- A8.3.38. This document provides a clear geographic reference for landscape character, special qualities and issues of landscape change across the National Park. It is intended for use in a number of ways, including, contributing to the development of policies with regard to large-scale developments on the fringes of the National Park and use as SPG, supporting emerging policies in the LDP, which aim to protect the special qualities of the National Park.

#### Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan (2015-2020).

- A8.3.39. This is the document that sets out the Special Qualities of the National Park. PPW requires that the special qualities of designated areas are given weight in the development planning and development management process. Therefore, this document (as well as the Special Qualities) will need to be carefully considered as part of the EIA process.
- A8.3.40. Effects on the Special Qualities of the BBNP are examined further within subsequent sections of this assessment, but will include:
- ‘A National Park offering peace and tranquillity with opportunities for quiet enjoyment, inspiration, relaxation and spiritual renewal’; and
  - ‘The Park’s sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty observed across a variety of harmoniously connected landscapes, including marvellous gorges and waterfalls, classic karst geology with caves and sink

holes, contrasting glacial landforms such as cliffs and broad valleys carved from old red sandstone and prominent hilltops with extensive view in all directions’.

### Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council LDP 2016-2031

#### POLICY CW1: THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- A8.3.41. The integrity of historic environment assets within the Borough will be conserved and enhanced.
- A8.3.42. *“Development proposals will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated they would preserve or enhance the architectural quality, character or the historic or cultural importance of designated historic environment assets.”*
- A8.3.43. *Development affecting undesignated historic environment assets including, Locally Listed Buildings or structures, Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, Urban Character Areas and Archaeologically Sensitive Areas should have regard to their special character and archaeological importance”.*

#### POLICY ENW5: LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

- A8.3.44. The following areas are designated as SLAs:
- SLA1: Nant Morlais & Cwm Taf Fechan;
  - SLA2: Winchfawr;
  - SLA3: Merthyr West Flank;
  - SLA4: Pontygwaith; and
  - SLA5: Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed.
- A8.3.45. Development will be permitted where it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that:
- a) *“It would not cause unacceptable harm to the character and quality of the landscape setting of the County Borough;*
  - b) *Within SLAs, it will be sensitive to their special characteristics;*
  - c) *It respects the local distinctiveness and historic character of the landscape;*
  - d) *It will safeguard local landscape character and landscape features, including views, which make a significant contribution to the character, history and setting of the locality;*
  - e) *It secures the enhancement of the character, appearance and quality of the landscape, through restoration, management or enhancement where possible;*
  - f) *There is no satisfactory alternative and the benefits associated with the development can be demonstrated to outweigh the harm; and*
  - g) *Where damage to local landscape character cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation has been secured”.*

#### POLICY ECW8: RENEWABLE ENERGY

- A8.3.46. The Authority will support the use of renewable energy as a tangible means of reducing the local carbon footprint, where it is appropriate to do so.
- A8.3.47. Development proposals for renewable energy will be permitted where:
- i. *“They do not have an unacceptable landscape and visual impact, including on the setting of the BBNP;*
  - ii. *There would be no unacceptable cumulative impacts in combination with existing or consented development;*
  - iii. *Satisfactory mitigation can be put in place to minimise the impacts of the renewable energy proposal and its associated infrastructure; and*

iv. *Proposals make provision for the appropriate restoration and after-care of the land for its beneficial future re-use”.*

- A8.3.48. Within Local Search Areas (LSA), proposals for solar energy generation will be permitted subject to the above criteria. Proposals for other development within these areas will only be permitted where they can demonstrate that they would not unacceptably prejudice the renewable energy generation potential of the LSA.

### Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council LDP 2006-2021

#### POLICY NSA 25 – SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

- A8.3.49. Special Landscape Areas are identified at the following locations:
1. Mynydd y Cymmer;
  2. Mynydd Troed y Rhiw Slopes;
  3. Llwyncelyn Slopes;
  4. Cwm Clydach;
  5. Cynon Valley Northern Slopes;
  6. Cwm Orci;
  7. Rhondda Fawr Northern Cwm & Slopes;
  8. Hirwaun Common, Cwm Dare & Cwm Aman; and
  9. Brecon Beacons Edge at Llwydcoed.
- A8.3.50. Development within the SLAs will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area.

#### POLICY SSA 23 – SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

- A8.3.51. SLAs are identified at the following locations:
1. Llanharry Surrounds;
  2. Talygarn Surrounds;
  3. Ely Valley at Miskin;
  4. Coed-yr-Hendy and Mwyndy;
  5. Llantrisant Surrounds;
  6. Mynydd y Glyn and Nant Muchudd Basin;
  7. Mynydd Hugh and Llantrisant Forest;
  8. Efail Isaf, Garth and Nantgarw Western Slopes;
  9. Craig yr Allt;
  10. Taff Vale Eastern Slopes, and
  11. Treforest Western Slopes.

- A8.3.52. Development within the defined SLAs will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area.

**POLICY AW 7 - PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

- A8.3.53. Development proposals which impact upon sites of architectural and/or historical merit and sites of archaeological importance will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the site.
- A8.3.54. Development proposals which affect areas of public open space, allotments, public rights of way, bridleways and cycle tracks will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:
1. *“There is a surplus of such facilities in the locality, or;*
  2. *The loss can be replaced with an equivalent or greater provision in the immediate locality; or*
  3. *The development enhances the existing facility”.*
- A8.3.55. The historic built environment and the man-made features of archaeological, historic or architectural interests are integral to the quality of the County Borough’s environment. They are unique to Rhondda Cynon Taf and trace the development of the area over time. Areas of recognised architectural and / or historical merit or sites of archaeological importance include listed buildings and conservation areas and their settings, registered historic landscapes and historic parks and gardens and their settings; and archaeological remains. Over the plan period, the Council will, where appropriate, seek to implement enhancement and management schemes to improve the character, quality and appearance of recognised heritage features.

**RCT Supplementary Planning Guidance**

- A8.3.56. The following SPG has been prepared by RCT and which are relevant to the proposed development.

**THE HISTORIC BUILT ENVIRONMENT SPG MARCH 2011**

- A8.3.57. Adopted in March 2011, this SPG provides detailed guidance to owners and occupiers of land and buildings within the historic built environment, including Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and also Historic Landscapes.

**Vale of Glamorgan Council LDP 2011-2026****POLICY SP10 - BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

- A8.3.58. Development proposals must preserve and where appropriate enhance the rich and diverse built and natural environment and heritage of the Vale of Glamorgan including:
1. *“The architectural and / or historic qualities of buildings or conservation areas, including listed buildings;*
  2. *Historic landscapes, parks and gardens;*
  3. *Special landscape areas;*
  4. *The Glamorgan Heritage Coast;*
  5. *Sites designated for their local, national and European nature conservation importance; and*
  6. *Important archaeological and geological features”.*

**POLICY MG17 - SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS**

- A8.3.59. The following areas are designated as SLAs:

1. Castle Upon Alun;
2. Upper & Lower Thaw Valley;
3. Ely Valley & ridge slopes;
4. Nant Llancarfan;

5. Dyffryn basin & ridge slopes; and
6. Cwrt-yr-Ala basin.

- A8.3.60. Within SLAs, development proposals will be permitted where it is demonstrated they would cause no unacceptable harm to the important landscape character of the area.

**POLICY MD8 - HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

- A8.3.61. Development proposals must protect the qualities of the built and historic environment of the Vale of Glamorgan, specifically:
1. *“Within conservation areas, development proposals must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area;*
  2. *For listed and locally listed buildings, development proposals must preserve or enhance the building, its setting and any features of significance it possesses;*
  3. *Within designated landscapes, historic parks and gardens, and battlefields, development proposals must respect the special historic character and quality of these areas, their settings or historic views or vistas; and*
  4. *For sites of archaeological interest, development proposals must preserve or enhance archaeological remains and where appropriate their settings”.*

**POLICY MG27 - GLAMORGAN HERITAGE COAST**

- A8.3.62. The special environmental qualities of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast will be conserved and enhanced. New development will be restricted to:
1. *“Development that is necessary for coastal defence as identified within the Lavernock Point;*
  2. *to St Ann’s Head Shoreline Management Plan;*
  3. *Development that is essential for agriculture, nature conservation, informal recreation, low impact tourism or coastal access;*
  4. *Development within settlement boundaries; and*
  5. *Other appropriate and sustainable development that accords with National Policy”.*
- A8.3.63. Development that unacceptably affects the special environmental qualities of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast will not be permitted.

**Powys County Council LDP 2011-2026****LDP OBJECTIVE 13 – LANDSCAPE AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

- i. *“Landscape. To protect, preserve and/or enhance the distinctive landscapes of Powys and adjoining areas, including protected landscapes; and*
- ii. *The Historic Environment. To protect, preserve and/or enhance the distinctive historic environment, heritage and cultural assets of Powys, in particular local assets that are not statutorily protected or designated under national legislation, and to ensure that development respects local distinctiveness”.*

**POLICY DM4 – LANDSCAPE**

- A8.3.64. Proposals for new development outside the Towns, Large Villages, Small Villages and Rural Settlements defined in the Settlement Hierarchy must not, individually or cumulatively, have an unacceptable adverse effect, on the valued characteristics and qualities of the Powys landscape. All proposals will need to:

1. *“Be appropriate and sensitive in terms of integration, siting, scale and design to the characteristics and qualities of the landscape including its: topography; development pattern and features; historical and ecological qualities; open views; and tranquillity; and*
2. *Have regard to LANDMAP, Registered Historic Landscapes, adjacent protected landscapes (National Parks and AONBs) and the visual amenity enjoyed by users of both Powys landscapes and adjoining areas”.*

A8.3.65. Proposals which are likely to have a significant impact on the landscape and/or visual amenity will require a LVIA to be undertaken.

#### **STRATEGIC POLICY SP7 - SAFEGUARDING OF STRATEGIC RESOURCES AND ASSETS**

A8.3.66. To safeguard strategic resources and assets in the County, development proposals must not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the resource or asset and its operation.

A8.3.67. The following have been identified as strategic resources and assets in Powys:

1. Land designated at international, European and/or national level for environmental protection.
2. Historic environment designations, including:
  - i. Registered Historic Landscapes;
  - ii. Registered Historic Parks and Gardens;
  - iii. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other archaeological remains;
  - iv. Listed Buildings and their curtilages; and
  - v. Conservation Areas.

A8.3.68. And the setting of designations i.-v.

3. Recreational Assets, including:
  - i. National Trails;
  - ii. Public Rights of Way Network;
  - iii. Recreational Trails;
  - iv. National Cycle Network; and
  - v. The valued characteristics and qualities of the landscape throughout Powys.

#### **POLICY DM7 – DARK SKIES AND EXTERNAL LIGHTING**

A8.3.69. Development proposals involving external lighting will only be permitted when a lighting scheme has been provided that demonstrates that the lighting will not individually or cumulatively cause:

1. *“Unacceptable levels of light pollution especially in the countryside;*
2. *An unacceptable adverse effect on the visibility of the night sky;*
3. *A nuisance or hazard to highway users including pedestrians, and local residents; and*
4. *An unacceptable disturbance to protected species”.*

#### **PCC Supplementary Planning Guidance**

A8.3.70. The following SPG has been prepared by PCC and which is relevant to the proposed development.

#### **LANDSCAPE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE APRIL 2019**

A8.3.71. The SPG supplements the landscape related policies of the Powys LDP (2011-2026), It however does not apply to areas of the County of Powys located within the BBNP.

## A8.4. STATUTORY CONSULTEE RESPONSES

A8.4.1. Responses from Statutory Consultees received, and actions taken following consideration of the responses are provided in Table A8.14.

Table A8.14: Consultee Responses

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
<b>1.0 CADW</b>		
1.1	<i>In regard to assessment of the cumulative effect of the proposed windfarm along with other windfarms, we note that it is proposed to only consider wind farm developments which have been applied for with decision pending and wind farm developments which have been granted permission but not yet implemented, whilst discounting single wind turbines and all turbines under 50 m. We disagree with this approach. The uplands of this part of Wales are open and views are extensive, meaning that even a single wind turbine can be clearly seen and along with the proposed windfarm the cumulative impact on the setting of historic asset could be high. In our opinion all cumulative impact of the proposed development should be assessed along with all wind turbines located inside 5 km of its boundary.</i>	Please note that the methodology for assessing the cumulative effects on landscape character and visual amenity includes all existing, consented and submitted wind farm developments, including single turbines, irrespective of height within a 5 km radius of the nearest proposed Manmoel turbine.
1.2	<i>We are also concerned that we have very recently provided scoping advice for EIA in regard to proposed Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm whose proposed location boundary is some 6km to the southeast of the proposed Manmoel Wind Farm. The ZTVs for both of these potential windfarms overlap considerably and if both were constructed their cumulative effect on some designated historic assets could be considerable. As it is likely that the applications for both windfarms will be being considered by the Welsh Ministers concurrently it is our opinion that the cumulative impact of the Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm and the Manmoel Wind Farm should be considered as part of this EIA.</i>	With regards to the proposed wind farm at Mynydd Llanhilleth, we have included it as part of the cumulative assessment, as it was submitted for planning before the w/c 15th November 2021. We have excluded all cumulative developments from our assessment that are subsequently submitted for planning after this date.
<b>2.0 BGCBC</b>		
2.1	<i>The methodology proposed within the Scoping Report's landscape and visual section is considered to be in accordance with acceptable guidance standards, including the Landscape Institutes Guidelines for Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) and Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. It is, however, recommended that consideration is also given to the Council's adopted supplementary planning guidance entitled "Planning Guidance for Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Requirements" as part of the overall methodology. This guidance can be accessed via the following link:<a href="https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/localdevelopment-plan/spg-documents/">https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/localdevelopment-plan/spg-documents/</a></i>	We note the recommendation regarding the consideration of the Council's SPG 'Planning Guidance for Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Requirements' and confirm that this was reviewed as part of the LVIA methodology.
2.2	<i>In respect of the cumulative wind farms to be included in the LVIA, it is recommended that the Abertillery Wind Farm recently submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for a scoping direction is included in Table 12.7 of the Scoping Report. This proposed wind farm would comprise of up to seven wind turbines with a maximum height of 180 m. It should also be noted that an application for a single wind turbine at Unit 19, Rassau Industrial Estate is currently pending determination. The proposed blade tip height of the wind turbine would be 80 m and would be located approximately 4 km from the development site. However, it is not anticipated that this wind turbine and the approved single turbine at Unit 18 Rassau Industrial Estate identified in Table 12.7 would both be constructed, due to their close proximity.</i>	With regards to the proposed Abertillery Wind Farm, we note that this development is still at Scoping stage, and the cumulative assessment only includes wind farms/turbines that are either operational, consented or submitted for planning. Therefore, as it will not be submitted for planning prior to the w/c 15 November 2021, we have excluded it from the assessment. As requested, the approved single turbine at Unit 19, Rassau Industrial Estate has been included within the cumulative assessment.
<b>3.0 NRW</b>		
3.1	<i>We advise that for the cumulative assessment (CLVIA), SNH Guidance: Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Farm Developments would be acceptable. A night time assessment of the effects of the aviation lighting would be required. Details of the methodology for assessing the night time impacts will be required. Given that the National Park is an International Dark Sky Reserve, and that lighting outside the National Park can affect the experience inside the National Park, we advise that at least one night-time viewpoint within the National Park should be included. Viewpoints from dark areas of landscape should be included as appropriate, not only from lit roads and settlements. NRW have</i>	As requested, a night time assessment has been included within the LVIA chapter of the ES in order to assess the effects of the aviation lighting. From the 24no. proposed viewpoint locations included within the LVIA; we have prepared night time photomontages from the following viewpoint locations in order to illustrate the effects of the aviation lighting to the turbines. 2. Sirhowy Valley Walk (north) 3. Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
	<p>recently commissioned a report on Dark Skies, which we advise should be referred to in the assessment. Please refer to the NRW / New map casts light on Wales' dark skies.</p>	<p>7. Cwm Twsswg junction with B4256. 8. B4511 (Markham). 11. B4560 (BBNP).</p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p>We note an overall Study Area and Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) of 45 km is proposed, in line with a Search Area under SNH guidance, and a more detailed 30 km Study Area. This is slightly larger than the 26 km Study Area suggested for this height of turbine in GN46 and is acceptable. A separate CLVIA Search/Study Area does not appear to be proposed. We would expect the detailed cumulative Study Area to be slightly larger than the 26 km recommended by GN46, and 30 km is considered acceptable.</p> <p>A range of distances for assessing cumulative effects with different heights of turbines is proposed, which is acceptable with regards to the National Park and AONB.</p> <p>We note the content of Table 12.7: Cumulative Wind Farms. We understand the turbines at Pen y Cymoedd to be 145 m to blade tip, rather than 143.5 m as stated in the table.</p> <p>We agree that Operational, Consented and in Planning developments should be considered in CLVIA-agreed. We note, there is potential for several current in Scoping proposals to advance to in Planning at the same time and the report references 2 in Scoping proposals at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn.</p> <p>For your information there is useful mapping of wind farm developments in the area hosted on the Blaenau Gwent Council website, which is kept reasonably up to date: <a href="https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan/windturbine-mapping/">https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan/windturbine-mapping/</a></p>	<p>Please note that following comments from other statutory consultees we have included a 15 km detailed study area rather than a 30 km. The overall study area will however remain at 45 km.</p> <p>We note that the Pen y Cymoedd turbines are 145 m to blade tip and have amended the cumulative wind farm table accordingly. With regards to the proposed wind farms at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, these were included as part of the cumulative assessment as they were submitted for planning before the w/c 15th November 2021. We have excluded all cumulative developments from our assessment that are subsequently submitted for planning after this date.</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p>With regard to the AONB, we note one viewpoint at The Kymin/Offa's Dyke National Trail (VP17), 36.39 km away has been selected. The ZTV indicates that one turbine would be visible from this area. We advise that an additional viewpoint should be included from a closer part of the AONB with more visibility to illustrate the worst case scenario e.g. a Viewpoint on the ridge near Llanishen, approximately 30 m distant where the ZTV indicates 3 turbines would be visible. Five viewpoints from the National Park are included in the report, viewpoints 11, 13, 15, 16 &amp; 18.</p> <p>We advise that there are a number of areas within the National Park with likely visibility of the development, within 26 km. Notably, a substantial area of the park across Mynydd Llangynidr and Cefn yr Ystrad, within approximately 10 km - 15 km, which are covered by Common Land or other open access land, as are Pen Cerrig Calch in the Black Mountains and Craig y Fan Ddu (Beacons Way), approximately 15 km away in the Brecon Beacons and Fan Fawr/Fan Llia in Fforest Fawr. There is also a viewpoint in the east part of the National Park at Mynydd Garnlochdy approximately 12 km away. We advise that additional viewpoints within the National Park should be included, given the sensitivity of the National designation. Two viewpoints from the trig points at Mynydd Llangynidr and Cefn yr Ystrad are advised, along with viewpoints at Pen Cerrig Calch, Craig y Fan Ddu, Fan Fawr/Fan Llia and Mynydd Garnlochdy.</p>	<p>With regards to the additional viewpoints requested, please note that we have included an additional viewpoint from the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Llanishen;</li> <li>b) Mynydd Llangynidr; and</li> <li>c) Pen Cerrig Calch.</li> </ul> <p>Please note that as the viewpoint from Llanishen is approximately 30 km to the nearest turbine it will, in our opinion, be best represented as a wireline, and therefore the preparation of a photomontage from this location has been excluded. An explanation to why we have excluded the remaining additional viewpoints suggested is provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Cefn yr Ystrad – Similar location to Mynydd Llangynidr. Although open access land it appears that there is no footpath (presents H&amp;S risk to assessor) and therefore few receptors;</li> <li>b) Craig y Fan Ddu – Very close to Pan y Fan (VP15) and therefore similar views/effects;</li> <li>c) Fan Fawr/Fan Llia – Similar view to Pan y Fan (VP15) and therefore likely similar effects; and</li> <li>d) Mynydd Garnlochdy. Although open access land it appears that there is no footpath (presents Health and Safety risk to assessor) and therefore few receptors. ZTV suggests limited visibility.</li> </ul>
<p>3.4</p>	<p>We note proposed visualisations are photographs and wirelines for each viewpoint, with photomontages from ten viewpoints to be agreed.</p>	<p>All photomontages have been prepared in line with the guidance as set out within the Landscape Institute's TGN06/19 Visual Representation of Development</p>

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
	<p><i>We advise that, in accordance with TGN06/19 VRDP, Type 4 representations with photomontages should be provided for viewpoints within the National Park, given the sensitivities. Cumulative photomontages/wirelines should also be produced illustrating cumulative effects on the National Park.</i></p> <p><i>We advise that the assessment should include effects on the purposes of the National Park, specifically in relation to natural beauty and the Special Qualities of the National Park as they relate to landscape. Reference should be made to the National Park Management Plan and Landscape SPG. The assessment should include consideration of cumulative impacts along routes/trails travelling through the National Park e.g. Beacons Way.</i></p>	<p>Proposals. However as noted within paragraph 8.15 of GLVIA 3, which states that 'it will not usually be possible to produce a visualisation from every viewpoint' and Paragraph 160 of SNH's Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2 (February 2017) notes that 'Given the limitations of depicting turbines in photomontages, their production will usually be of most value for views within 20km of a wind farm site, for turbines up to 150 metres high to blade tip. At distances greater than this it can be difficult to represent the turbines well on a photomontage'. While we acknowledge that the proposed turbines are greater than 150 m to blade tip, we believe that the above still stand true, as with long range views, atmospheric conditions, such as haze, typically reduces the clarity of the view. Therefore, in line with this guidance we have included photomontages from the 5no. viewpoints that are located within the National Park but excluded the 2no. that are greater than 20 km away from the nearest turbine.</p> <p>The LVIA has made reference to the National Park Management Plan and Landscape SPG. It has also considered cumulative effects from routes/trails within the National Park.</p>
<p><b>4.0 Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP)</b></p>		
<p>4.1</p>	<p><i>The reproduction of the figures is very difficult to read and are very pixelated These need to be revisited.</i></p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p><i>Cumulative impact – as raised above, the National Park Authority has recently been consulted on a number of new wind farm proposals on the fringes of the National Park boundary and the Authority has concern regarding their cumulative impact. Given this proliferation, we would argue that all existing, consented and submitted turbines within the 45 km radius need to be considered and that is not appropriate to discount some turbines accordingly to distance from this proposal and blade height.</i></p>	<p>The number of cumulative developments included within the assessment needs to be reasonable and proportionate and as stated in paragraph 7.5 of GLVIA3, 'It is always important to remember that the emphasis in EIA is on likely significant effects rather than a comprehensive cataloguing of every conceivable effect that might occur'. It is considered that the approach outlined in the Scoping Report to determining which cumulative developments to include within the assessment is sensible and proportionate given the size of the study area.</p>
<p>4.3</p>	<p><i>Presumably the ZTV will change following the finalisation of the turbine layout. Therefore, we reserve our consideration of the appropriateness of the viewpoints once further detail has been provided on these. It is noted that 19 viewpoints are currently identified in total, with five viewpoints within the National Park boundary. Based on the ZTV additional viewpoints within the National Park are requested to the north-west of Mynydd Llangyndir and from the Black Mountains. It is assumed that winter views will be provided of these viewpoints.</i></p>	<p>With regards to the two additional viewpoints requested, please note that subject to site assessment confirming their suitability, we have included an additional viewpoint from the two locations suggested.</p> <p>With regards to winter views, viewpoint photography was taken from locations which offer clear views of the proposed development and locations where it was screened by vegetation was avoided. In addition, given the location and type of development proposed, it was considered that winter views are not necessary.</p>
<p>4.4</p>	<p><i>The legal and policy context should refer to the current BBNP Management Plan (2015-2020). This is the document that sets out the Special Qualities of the National Park. PPW requires that the special qualities of designated areas are given weight in the development planning and development management process. Therefore this document (as well as the Special Qualities) will need to be carefully considered as part of the EIA process.</i></p>	<p>As requested, the BBNP Management Plan (2015-2020) is referenced within the LVIA chapter of the ES.</p>
<p>4.5</p>	<p><i>The chapters in the ES need to consider of the impact of the proposal on the special qualities of the National Park. Particular special qualities the Authority is concerned about relate to:</i></p> <p><i>'A National Park offering peace and tranquillity with opportunities for quiet enjoyment, inspiration, relaxation and spiritual renewal'.</i></p> <p><i>'The Park's sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty observed across a variety of harmoniously connected landscapes, including marvellous gorges and waterfalls, classic karst geology with caves and sink holes, contrasting</i></p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
4.6	<p><i>glacial landforms such as cliffs an broad valleys carved from old red sandstone and prominent hilltops with extensive view in all directions’.</i></p> <p><i>Photomontages are requested from all viewpoints within the National Park.</i></p>	<p>With regards to photomontages within the National Park, please note that Paragraph 8.15 of GLVIA 3, states that ‘it will not usually be possible to produce a visualisation from every viewpoint’ and Paragraph 160 of SNH’s Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2 (February 2017) goes on to say that ‘Given the limitations of depicting turbines in photomontages, their production will usually be of most value for views within 20km of a wind farm site, for turbines up to 150 metres high to blade tip. At distances greater than this it can be difficult to represent the turbines well on a photomontage’. While we acknowledge that the proposed turbines are greater than 150 m to blade tip, we believe that the above still stand true, as with long range views, atmospheric conditions, such as haze, typically reduces the clarity of the view. Therefore, in line with this guidance we have included photomontages from the 5no. viewpoints that are located within the National Park but excluded the 2no. that are greater than 20 km away from the nearest turbine.</p>
<p><b>5.0 Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC)</b></p>		
5.1	<p><i>Question 12.1: Do consultees agree that assessing the maximum blade diameter available for the tip height in question is appropriate?</i></p> <p><i>It is suggested that in order to assess the worst-case scenario in terms of effects on landscape character and visual amenity this will be based on the maximum hub height available. However, any blade diameter will be smaller as the height of the turbine hub increases, to the turbines combined maximum height of 180 m, and vice versa. Based on the maximum hub height this will not be the worst- case scenario, as a hub of a lower height with larger blades reaching a maximum height of 180 m to tip will have a larger visual effect. Therefore, in order to assess the worst-case scenario the lowest hub height for a turbine reaching a maximum overall height of 180 m (with largest blade length) to tip needs to be assessed.</i></p>	<p>Comments noted and confirm that the largest rotor diameter available for the height of turbines proposed, rather than tallest hub height was used within the assessment of effects on landscape character and visual amenity, including within all visualisations.</p>
5.2	<p><i>Question 12.1: Do consultees agree with the methodology used to determine which wind farms are to be included within the cumulative assessment and also agree with the list provided in Table 12.7?</i></p> <p><i>CCBC broadly concurs with the methodology used to determine which wind farms are to be included within the cumulative assessment. However, Figures 3.1 and 3.2 need to be updated as it would appear that the competitor site status and other wind farm activity is now out of date within the Caerphilly County Borough.</i></p> <p><i>Notwithstanding the above it is recommended that the cumulative assessment is expanded to include all large scale energy infrastructure, including solar parks of 10 MW and above, within the 15 m study area. This should include operational, consented and in planning.</i></p>	<p>With regards to the request to include all large scale energy infrastructure as part of the cumulative assessment, please note that Paragraph 7.9 of GLVIA3 states ‘In most cases the focus of the cumulative assessment will be on the additional effect of the project in conjunction with other developments of the same type’. We do not consider that other energy infrastructure projects, such as solar farms, are directly comparable to a wind farm development. Therefore, the cumulative assessment should be restricted to other wind farm/single turbine developments as originally proposed within the Scoping Report.</p>
5.3	<p><i>Question 12.3: Do you agree with the proposed size of the overall study area (45 km) and the adoption of a more detailed study area (30 km)?</i></p> <p><i>Given the proposed number of turbines and very large 180 m height to blade tip the 45 km study area is reasonable. However, having studied figure 12.1 ZTV, from a CCBC perspective likely significant effects will be local, therefore a sufficient detailed assessment is required to be carried out for the closer study area of 15 km. This should be supported by more detailed scale ZTV, and wider more detailed viewpoints selection than currently covered.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of RVAA, the separate RVAA is welcomed. As local residents are likely to experience potentially significant / possibly unacceptable visual effects this should not be limited to properties within 2 km but take into account the</i></p>	<p>We note that a detailed 15 km study area has been requested and therefore reduced the detailed 30 km radius study area to 15 km, which includes a more detailed ZTV. In addition, 19 of the now proposed 24 viewpoints are located approximately within 15 km of a turbine, which we consider sufficient to assess the effects on visual amenity.</p> <p>With regards to the size of the RVAA study area, please note that Paragraph 4.6 of the Landscape Institutes TGN02/2021 which states that ‘Over the last few years a large number of RVAAs have been prepared, especially relating to wind energy</p>

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
	<p><i>character of the landscape, elevation, aspect, screening vegetation and type, and if views of existing turbines can be seen from the property. Local residential properties to the south of Manmoel are just outside of the 2 km radius and would expect those residential properties to be included within the RVAA.</i></p>	<p><i>proposals. Local Planning Authorities have frequently requested ‘study areas’ of up to 3 or even 5 km. The logic for these (exceptionally) large study areas was based on certain findings of LVIA’s which identified significant visual effects from ‘settlements’ or from clusters of residential properties within this range. This fails to recognise that RVAA is a stage beyond LVIA. Consequently, many RVAAs, including those of windfarms with large turbines (150 m and taller), have included disproportionately extensive study areas incorporating too many properties. This appears to largely be based on the misconception that if a significant effect has been identified in the LVIA adjacent to a property at 2.5 km it will also potentially lead to reaching the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold’ It goes on to note in Paragraph 4.7 that ‘When assessing relatively conspicuous structures such as wind turbines, and depending on local landscape characteristics, a preliminary study area of approximately 1.5 km - 2 km radius may initially be appropriate in order to begin identifying properties to include in a RVAA’ Therefore we consider the 2 km study area proposed to be proportionate and suitable for RVAA.</i></p>
<p>5.4</p>	<p><i>Question 12.4: Do consultees agree with the number, location and receptor types that have been selected as the representative viewpoints in order to assess the effects on visual amenity within the study areas?</i></p> <p><i>From a CCBC perspective, the range of viewpoints located have been assessed through both desk study and site visits. Overall, it is considered that most of the viewpoints are acceptable, however for a fuller picture of effects within the study area additional locations are required within the 15 km study area to understand the impact of the proposed development.</i></p> <p><i>The additional locations within the 15 km study area are suggested below, however, this is not an exhaustive list and additional viewpoints may be required at a later stage following a detailed study of any future LVA.</i></p> <p><i>The B4256, adjacent to PROW Rhymney FP64 and from within the North Rhymney Valley VILL NH 2.1, looking ESE. Pen-y-fan Country Park, looking NNW from the pond’s southern perimeter path.</i></p> <p><i>Blackwood Showfield, Cefn Fforest looking north from the play area / path.</i></p> <p><i>In relation to Viewpoint Photomontages, these should not be limited to ten as additional photomontages are likely to be required from key sensitive viewpoints, notably from within the 15 km study area. Where this is the case, any key / sensitive views will need to be supported with baseline photographs, wireframes and photomontages. Viewpoints should also be shown as clear accurate points on a much more detailed scale plan than what is currently provided to give an accurate indication of their location.</i></p>	<p>With regards to the additional viewpoints requested, we have included two of the three locations suggested within the assessment. Please note that following a site visit to Pen y Fan Country Park, no suitable view towards the proposed development could be found due to intervening vegetation. We therefore excluded this location from further assessment.</p>
	<p><i>Question 12.5: Do consultees agree with the proposed approach and outputs listed to assess the effects on landscape character and visual amenity?</i></p> <p><i>CCBC broadly concurs with the proposed approach with the exception of the additional information outlined below;</i></p> <p><i>More detailed scale ZTV at 15km radius on 1:25k OS scale plan;</i></p> <p><i>A more detailed viewpoints plan covering the 15km radius on 1:25k OS scale will also be required for the 15km study and should be supported with baseline photographs, wireframes and photomontages;</i></p> <p><i>The cumulative ZTVs should also be carried out at a 15 km radius on 1:25k OS scale plan covering the wind turbine developments in the study area; and</i></p> <p><i>Cumulative wind farm location plan covering 15 km radius on 1:25k OS scale, plus an additional cumulative location plan that details all large scale energy infrastructure (solar parks of 10 MW and above) and should include operational, consented and those in planning should also be provided.</i></p>	<p>Please note that the detailed 15 km study area includes the figures as suggested above. However, for the reasons as previously outlined, the cumulative assessment, including figures do not include other large scale energy infrastructure projects, except for other wind farm/sing turbine developments.</p>

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
<b>6.0 Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC)</b>		
6.1	<i>Question 5.1 Agree with approach but suggest should consider moderate significant landscape effects and moderate significant visual amenity effects as local factors may make certain views visually important. Need to consider Torfaen County Council Draft Replacement LDP Policies.</i>	Comments noted.
	<i>Question 7.1 Agree with proposed sections.</i>	Comments noted.
	<i>Question 12.1 Assessment of maximum blade diameter available for tip height is appropriate</i>	Comments noted.
	<i>Question 12.2 Ensure submitted turbines within TCBC included in assessment of cumulative impact.</i>	Comments noted.
	<i>Question 12.3 Study area needs to consider visual and landscape impact on Blaenavon World Heritage site</i>	Comments noted.
	<i>Question 12.5 Agree with proposed approach and outputs listed to assess landscape character and visual amenity.</i>	Comments noted.

## A8.5. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA DESCRIPTIONS

### Landscape Character Areas (LCA's) within the 45 km Study Area

A8.5.1. Table A8.15 identifies LCAs that may have potential for significant effects on landscape character as a result of the proposed development. Likely effects are considered within sections 8.7 and 8.8 within Chapter 8 of the ES. Where LCA's are identified for exclusion in the table, these have been excluded from further assessment and are not considered further.

Table A8.15: Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion				Distance
	Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	
LCA 01 Mynydd Manmoel	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proposed development within to site				
LCA 02 Pentrapoed East	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				
LCA 03 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr & Ebbw Fach Valleys	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				
LCA 04 Mynydd Carn-y-cefn & Cefn yr Arail	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				
LCA 05 Beaufort Hill	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				
LCA 06 Tredegar Post Industrial	X				X
LCA 07 Cwm Tyleri/Blaina valley Sides	X				X
LCA 08 Coity Mountain	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				
LCA 09 Ebbw Vale, Waun-Llwyd, Cwm	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				
LCA 10 Tredegar	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				
LCA 11 Sirhowy Valley & Valley North of Blackwood	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				
LCA 12 Mynydd Bedwellty	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion				Distance
	Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	
LCA 13 Pentrapoed West	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				
LCA 14 Blackwood	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				
LCA 15 Darren Valley	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				
LCA 16 Gelligaer Common/West of Rhymney	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 17 Mynydd Eglwysilan/Llanfabon	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 18 Rhondda Taff Vale	X				X
LCA 19 Ffos-y-fran Merthyr Upper East Flan	X			X	
LCA 20 Merthyr Common & Cwm Cothi Farmlands	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 21 Mid Taff Vale & Merthyr East Flank	X				X
LCA 22 Merthyr Tydfil	X				X
LCA 23 Abernant, Cefnpennar & Merthyr West Flank	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 24 St Gwynno and Ynysybwll	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 25 Merthyr North Flank	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 26 Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 27 Central Beacons	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 28 Mynydd Oedd Llangatwg & Llangynidr	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 29 Mynydd Llangynidr	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 30 Eastern Usk Valley	X				X
LCA 31 Clydach Gorge	X				X
LCA 32 The Black Mountains	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 33 Skirrid and Sugar Loaf	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion				
	Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
LCA 34 Blaenavon (Western Slopes)	X				X
LCA 35 Blaenavon East Slopes	X				X
LCA 36 Valley Slopes West of Abersychan	X				X
LCA 37 Blorenge Hills & Slopes	X				X
LCA 38 Mynydd Llwyd & Mynydd Maen	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 39 Cwmbrian Western Slopes	X				X
LCA 40 Twmbarlwm & Cwmcarn	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area.				
LCA 41 Risca	X				X
LCA 42 North West of Mynydd y Lan	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 43 Mynydd y Lan	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 44 Valley Slopes Sirhowy, Machen & Ystrad Mynach	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 45 Mynydd y Grug	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 46 Michaelston-y-Fedw	X				X
LCA 47 Machen Slopes	X				X
LCA 48 Rhymney Valley South of Caerphilly	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 49 Caerphilly	X	X			X
LCA 50 Wentlooge Levels South West	X	X			X
LCA 51 Lamby Way Tip	X	X			X
LCA 52 Cardiff	X	X			X
LCA 53 Flatholm	X	X			X
LCA 54 Penarth and Cogan	X				X
LCA 55 Sully Ridges and Cosmeston	X				X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion				
	Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
LCA 56 Cwrt yr Ala Lowlands	X				X
LCA 57 Cog Moors	X				X
LCA 58 Barry	X				X
LCA 59 Ystradowen Lowland Valleys					X
LCA 60 Hensol Forest	X				X
LCA 61 Upper Thaw Valley	X				X
LCA 62 Lower Thaw Valley	X				X
LCA 63 Cowbridge	X				X
LCA 64 Lias Plateau					X
LCA 65 Llandow Trading Estate					X
LCA 66 Llantwit Major					X
LCA 67 St Athan	X				X
LCA 68 Thaw Estuary	X				X
LCA 69 Central Vale Ridges and Slopes	X				X
LCA 70 Lower Waycock Valley	X				X
LCA 71 Upper Waycock Valley & Duffryn	X				X
LCA 72 Cardiff International Airport	X				X
LCA 73 Rhoose and Pothkerry Hinterlands	X				X
LCA 74 Heritage Coast Hinterland	X				X
LCA 75 Pentyrch	X				X
LCA 76 Llantrisant	X				X
LCA 77 Hendre	X				X
LCA 78 Mynydd y Glyn	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 79 Bettws & Nant Muchudd	X				X
LCA 80 Mynydd Maendy	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion				
	Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
LCA 81 Hirwaun Common & Surrounding Ridges	X				X
LCA 82 Ogmores Forest & Surrounding Uplands	X				X
LCA 83 Mynydd Llangeinwyr Uplands	X				X
LCA 84 Cefn y Rhondda & Treherbert	X				X
LCA 85 St Gwynno	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 86 Mynydd Resolven, Craig-y-Llyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg	X				X
LCA 87 Waterfall Country & Southern Uplands	X				X
LCA 88 Neath Valley	X				X
LCA 89 Banwen Pyrdin & Head of Dulais Valley	X				X
LCA 90 Hirfynydd				X	
LCA 91 Mynydd Marchywel	X				X
LCA 92 Slopes of Cefn Gwrhyd & Cwm Egel	X				X
LCA 93 Mynydd Uchaf, Mynydd Garth & Cefn Gwrhyd					X
LCA 94 Mynydd Uchaf & Mynydd Garth	X				X
LCA 95 Mynydd Du	X				X
LCA 96 Fforest Fawr	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 97 Ysgir & Honddu Valley	X				X
LCA 98 Mynydd Epynt & Uplands	X				X
LCA 99 Llaneglwys Wood	X				X
LCA 100 Twyn-y-Gaer	X				X
LCA 101 Onllandefalle Common	X				X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion				
	Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
LCA 102 Duhonw Valley & Erwood Hinterland	X				X
LCA 103 Felinfach and Llanfilo Farmlands	X				X
LCA 104 Glaschw, Llandeilo & Gwaunceste Hills	X				X
LCA 105 Radnorshire Rolling Hills South East	X				X
LCA 106 The Begwns	X				X
LCA 107 Monmouthshire Northern Hills	X				X
LCA 108 Graig Syfyrdin	X				X
LCA 109 Grey Valley Settled Farmland	X				X
LCA 110 Whitfield, Kingston	X				X
LCA 111 Cobhall Common	X				X
LCA 112 Felmont Abbey & Newtown	X				X
LCA 113 The Rhydd					X
LCA 114 Aconbury Hill					X
LCA 115 Orcop Hill	X				X
LCA 116 Cross Llydd Wooded Estate & Farmland	X				X
LCA 117 Garway Hill Common	X				X
LCA 118 River Monnow Valley	X				X
LCA 119 St Weonards Wooded Hills & Farmland	X				X
LCA 120 Kynaston Settled Farmland	X				X
LCA 121 Buckholt Woods	X				X
LCA 122 Ganarew Wooded Hills	X				X
LCA 123 Symonds Yat West	X				X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion				
	Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
LCA 124 Coppet Hill	X				X
LCA 125 Trellech Grange	X				X
LCA 126 Llangovan Foothills	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
LCA 127 Llangeview	X				X
LCA 128 Southern Usk Valley	X				X
LCA 129 Llandegfedd Reservoir	X				X
LCA 130 Parkland Wye Valley	X				X
LCA 131 Trellech Commons & Forest	X				X
LCA 132 Trellech Plateaux	X				X
LCA 133 Devauden Escarpment	X				X
LCA 134 The Wye Valley	X				X
LCA 135 Coleford, Christchurch & Bricknor Hills	X				X
LCA 136 Ruardean Hills	X				X
LCA 137 Forest of Dean Core	X				X
LCA 138 Tiddenham Chase & St Briavels Common	X				X
LCA 139 Caldicot Levels	X				X
LCA 140 Pilning Levels					X
LCA 141 Avonmouth					X
LCA 142 Portishead	X				X
LCA 143 Portishead Ridges & Combes	X				X
LCA 144 Clevedon					X
LCA 145 Tickenham Ridges & Combes	X				X
LCA 146 Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands					X
LCA 147 Kingston Saymour & Puxton Moors					X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion				
	Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
LCA 148 Middlehope Ridges & Combes					X

A8.5.2. The following paragraphs describe the existing landscape character within the study area. These have been derived through a combination of analysis of published landscape character assessments and, with regard to LCA's, informed by LANDMAP data from all five Aspect Areas (Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitat, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Services), in line with NRW Guidance Note 46.

Table A8.16: LCA 01 Mynydd Manmoel

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BLNGWVS861 – L	BLNGWLH015 – H	BLNGWGL010 – M	BLNGWHL006 – H	BLNGWCLS037
BLNGWVS688 – H	BLNGWLH028 – H	BLNGWGL009 – M	BLNGWHL019 – M	BLNGWCLS014
BLNGWVS334 – M	BLNGWLH025 – H	BLNGWGL011 – M	BLNGWHL029 – H	BLNGWCLS026
BLNGWVS119 – H	CYNONLH122 – H	CYNONGLO03 – M	BLNGWHL027 – H	CYNONCLS070
CYNONVS605 – H			BLNGWHL037 – H	
CYNONVS144 – M			CYNONHL696 – M	

A8.5.3. This LCA comprises the north-south open rounded ridge and upland plateaux of Cefn Manmoel. The area is predominantly open rough grazed moorland although to the west of the area at Scotch Peter, coniferous forestry extends along the west facing slopes above Georgetown and Tredegar. To the north, around Waun-y-Pound, the landscape is more typical of the Heads of the Valleys. The undulating plateau between the settlements of Tredegar and Ebbw Vale are comprised more typically of disturbed land with reclamation and a mosaic of post-industrial uses and non-uses including industry and recreation, new roads and retail parks, interspersed with remnants of farmland. This imparts a sense of incoherence to this urban fringe area. Throughout the LCA there are panoramic views along and across valleys and to the Brecon Beacons from high points and lips of valleys. The long-distance views from the tops, with the valleys hidden, gives a very important remote quality enhanced through limited road access. The ridge also provides an attractive skyline and backdrop to the valleys on both sides. To the south west of the LCA the single turbine operational wind farms at Cruglwyn and at Cruglwyn 2 have some influence on the character locally.

Table A8.17: LCA 02 Pentrapoed East

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS144 - M	CYNONLH122 – H	BLNGWGL011 – M	CYNONHL696 – M	CYNONCLS017
			CYNONHL660 – H	
			CYNONHL465 – H	

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
			CYNONHL558 – H CYNONHL004 - H	

A8.5.4. The LCA comprises a mosaic of fields extending across rolling hilly landforms lying between 200 m and 400 m AOD. The upland character and the quality of available views out of the LCA increases with elevation and the influence of the urban edge and associated visual clutter decreases. Landcover is typically a mix of rough grassland on upland areas with pasture fields and scattered woodland blocks, hedgerows and narrow lanes. Recent large developments at Oakdale to the south have expanded into area imparting a more urban influence on this fringe. To the east of the area, around Mynydd Pen y Fan, the undulating plateau above the main Sirhowy valley contains a mosaic of small pasture fields with overgrown beech hedges throughout giving very distinctive and attractive sense of place. This part of the LCA is separated visually and its tranquil and rural character contrasts with the ‘valleys’ landscape below. The character is influenced throughout by operational wind farms at Cruglwyn and at Cruglwyn 2 to the north and Pen y Fan Ganol Farm and Pen y Fan (Ind Est) further to the south.

Table A8.18: LCA 03 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach Valleys

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BLNGWVS713 – H	BLNGWLH016 – M	BLNGWGL010 – M	BLNGWHL019 – M	BLNGWCLS032
BLNGWVS404 – H	BLNGWLH028 – H	BLNGWGL011 – M CYNONGL003 – M	BLNGWHL029 – H BLNGWHL037 – H BLNGWHL022 – H BLNGWHL021 – H BLNGWHL008 – H BLNGWHL035 – H BLNGWHL044 – O BLNGWHL041 – O	

A8.5.5. This area covers the majority of the sides of the three main south-flowing valleys of Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach. These areas comprise steep, wild hillsides forming a visually important backdrop and enclosing element to the settlements in the valleys. The valley sides are varied and display traces of former industrial land-uses, such as quarrying and mining, together with semi-natural woodland, rocky outcrops, small fields and scattered small settlements with distinctive long-row patterns. To the south, dense coniferous forestry on the steep valley sides provides increased enclosure. Some panoramic views along the valleys are available from the valley sides.

Table A8.19: LCA 04 Mynydd Cam-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	BLNGWHL022 – H BLNGWHL041 – H BLNGWHL044 – O	NA

A8.5.6. This area comprises an upland ridge between the Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach valleys. To the south the area is mainly farmland with a pattern of small fields bounded in parts by substantial hedges and stone walls. Rising to the north, the area is more open with upland pasture and moorland. There are areas of coniferous forestry most notably to the south, particularly on the steep valley sides. The LCA is sparsely populated with some scattered farms. Fine views are available from Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and from the edges of the ridge generally south down valley and across to similar ridgelines defining the South Wales Valleys. The area feels remote and tranquil and is accessible by foot only. Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn covers a large area of open moorland crossed by a network of long-established paths and tracks, which contains extensive evidence of extractive activity and the remains of a possible prehistoric ritual landscape, indicated by the presence of the substantial cairn from which the area takes its name. The LCA constitutes a multi-period landscape of high overall value.

Table A8.20: LCA 05 Beaufort Hill

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	BLNGWHL022 – H BLNGWHL021 – H BLNGWHL008 – H	NA

A8.5.7. This open large-scale area comprises an undulating plateau and lower slopes of end of ridge between the settlements of Ebbw Vale and Brynmawr. There is evidence of the past extractive industry now generally derelict and underused including extensive tips overlooking Brynmawr. Farmland comprises rough upland grassland imparts a generally rural character, but with a run-down character and urban fringe disturbances. There are a few scattered houses and farms but no public roads except the by-way between the towns which crosses at the narrowest point. There are a variety of panoramic views along and across valleys on both sides, and to the Brecon Beacons to the north from the visually open high points, especially in the northern part, which is generally north-facing.

Table A8.21: LCA 08 Coity Mountain

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BLNGWVS688 – H	NA	NA	BLNGWHL025 – H	NA
BLNGWVS226 – H			BLNGWHL034 – H	
BLNGWVS985 – H			BLNGWHL044 – O	
TRFNVS024 – H			TRFNHL020 – H TRFNHL017 - O	

A8.5.8. This area comprises vast scale, exposed and open upland moorland extending across the County Boundary between Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen. These wild and remote areas contrast with the adjacent settled valleys and offer panoramic views in all directions. The area possesses a strong sense of place as a result of the open views and simple set of defining /distinctive elements (open/ hilly /rough grassland/exposure/elevation). The character is indirectly influenced by operational wind farms at Cruglwyn and at Cruglwyn 2 in views to the west and more directly by the operational developments at Blaentillery Farm and Coed y Gilfach Farm within the LCA.

Table A8.22: LCA 09 Ebbw Vale, Waun-Llwyd, Cwm

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BLNGWVS542 - M	NA	BLNGWGL010 – M BLNGWGL011 – M	BLNGWHL006 – H BLNGWHL019 – M BLNGWHL019 – H BLNGWHL038 – H	BLNGWCLS045

A8.5.9. This area comprises the valley settlements of Ebbw Vale, Waun-Llwyd and Cwm, enclosed in the sharply defined Ebbw Valley that extends south from the shallow Heads of the Valleys Basin. These settlements are typical of the South Wales valleys comprising a mix of traditional terraced housing with newer development on post-industrial land. Within core areas, some distinct buildings, such as church towers/spires and the steelworks office, form landmarks/focal points, and hint at past prosperity. Ebbw Vale in particular was one of the major industrial settlements within the Blaenau Gwent area throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, with substantial extant evidence of 19th century workers' housing, industrial communications features and notable public buildings, including Christ Church and the Ironworks General Office. The outer edges of the settlements tend to sprawl up valley sides, with 'anywhere' housing typical. The main routes through the valleys by-pass the town centres. There are fine views to the adjacent high ridges, to the Brecon Beacons and along the valleys, which help to provide sense of place and orientation. The character is influenced to the north of the LCA by single turbine operational wind farm developments at the Former Tech Board Site, Rassau Industrial Estate and at Unit 15 (Rassau Ind Est).

Table A8.23: LCA 10 Tredegar

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	BLNGWGL010 – M	BLNGWHL016 – H BLNGWHL310 – O BLNGWHL027 – H	NA

A8.5.10. This area comprises the valley settlements of Tredegar, enclosed in the sharply defined Sirhowy Valley that extends south from the shallow Heads of the Valleys Basin. The settlements is typical of the South Wales valleys and comprises a mix of traditional terraced housing with newer development on post-industrial land and rising up the valley sides to the west. Within core areas, some distinct landmark buildings hinting at past prosperity. The settlement retains much of its 19th century street plan intact, with its focal point represented by the distinctive cast iron clock tower of 1858, and the survival of the historically important, scheduled remains of the late 18th-19th century Sirhowy Ironworks. There are fine views to the adjacent high ridges, to the Brecon Beacons and along the valleys, which help to provide sense of place and orientation. The character is influenced to the north of the LCA by operational wind farm developments at Unit 29/Waldrons Commercials Unit and at Eurocaps Ltd to the north east.

Table A8.24 : LCA 11 Sirhowy Valley & Valley North of Blackwood

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BLNGWVS713 - H	BLNGWLH015 – H BLNGWLH025 – H	BLNGWGL009 – M CYNONGL003 – M	CYNONHL660 – H BLNGWHL027 – H	BLNGWCLS033

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
			BLNGWHL036 – H CYNONHL660 – H	

This area comprises an upland valley extending south from the settlement of Tredegar and typically containing a mix of vegetation cover, including a mosaic of small fields and scattered trees and small wooded areas. The whole area has an enclosed feeling due to valley sides. Throughout there are past industrial remains., including old slag heaps and other industrial scars, including quarries, tips, inclines, mines. There are some good views, and the steep wild hillsides form an important backdrop to the settlements. Some indirect influence from operational wind farm development is occasionally evident, including Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2.

Table A8.25: LCA 12 Mynydd Bedwellty

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS352 – M BLNGWVS688 – H BLNGWVS673 – M	NA	NA	BLNGWHL027 – H BLNGWHL036 – H BLNGWHL026 – H	NA

Mynydd Bedwellty is a north-south orientated high open rounded ridge. Landcover is mainly grass/heather moorland and there are remnants of quarrying and tipping and associated disturbance. The ridge provides a sweeping skyline to the settled valleys. It is an uncluttered, wild, unpeopled landscape with a strong sense of place. 360 degree long-distance views are available from the high points with the valleys hidden below, imparting a sense of remoteness. Access is constrained and is limited to the B4256 between Rhymney and Tredegar. The character of the LCA is influenced directly to the north from operational wind farm development at Pen Bryn Oer and to the south at Pen Rhiw Gwaith Farm. There will also be an indirect influence from operational wind farm development along the Heads of the Valleys and at Cruglwyn and at Cruglwyn 2 to the east. To south-west in the neighboring LCA 13, single turbine wind farm developments at Pen-yr-hoel Farm, Bedlwyn Farm and Gelli Wen Farm will add to indirect influences.

Table A8.26: LCA 13 Pentraoed West

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS144 - M	NA	CYNONGL003 – M	CYNONHL696 – M CYNONHL701 – H	NA

A8.5.11. This LCA comprises a mosaic of fields extending across rolling hilly landforms lying between 200 m and 400 m AOD. The upland character and the quality of available views out of the LCA increases with elevation and the influence of the urban edge and associated visual clutter decreases. Landcover is typically a mix of rough grassland on upland areas with pasture fields and scattered woodland blocks, hedgerows and narrow lanes. The character of the LCA is influenced directly to the north from operational wind farm development at Pen-yr-heol Farm, Bedlwyn Farm and Gelli Wen Farm. There will also be an indirect influence from operational wind farm development from Cruglwyn and at Cruglwyn 2 to the east and from Pen y Fan Ganol Farm, Oakdale Business Park and Pen y Fan (Ind Est) to the south east.

**Table A8.27: LCA 14 Blackwood**

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	CYNONHL660 – H CYNONHL004 – H CYNONHL701 – H CYNONHL556 – O	NA

A8.5.12. Blackwood is an entirely urbanised aspect area including parts of the Sirhowy Valley and enclosed by the rolling uplands such as Mynydd Islwyn, Mynydd Bach and Mynydd Bedwellty. It is a conglomeration of many settlements which coalesce, with remnant fields and open/vegetated areas enclosed by built form. The rolling topography has a north-south trend, although this is partially obscured by a layer of built form. The area is heavily influenced by past industrial activity, relating to coal and iron production. To the north east there is some indirect influence from operational wind farm development at Oakdale Business Park.

**Table A8.28: LCA 15 Darren Valley**

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	CYNONHL602 – H CYNONHL701 – H	NA

A8.5.13. This area comprises an upland valley with a complex mix of broadleaf/conifer/mixed woodland, with open areas of bracken and rough grassland with isolated settlement and some relicts of industrial /mining past and disused railway. The relatively narrow landform and mosaic pattern contribute to sense of enclosure. The LCA also includes the upper valley sides and tops. Landcover is rough grazing with bracken and scattered clumps of woodland. Rock outcrops impart a strong upland character tempered by urban presence to south of area. Views similarly polarised into upland and urban. There are also occasional scattered farmsteads with steep drives/access tracks rising up sloping landform. The character is influenced to the north of the LCA by operational wind farm developments at Pen Bryn Oer to the north and to the south at Cefn Bach Farm and Groesfaen Farm.

**Table A8.29: LCA 16 Gelligaer Common/West of Rhymney**

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS361 – M CYNONVS404 – H CYNONVS605 – H MRTHRVS858 – H MRTHRVS119 - M	NA	NA	CYNONHL701 – H CYNONHL831 – O CYNONHL831 – H CYNONHL602 – H MRTHRHL015 – O MRTHRHL016 – H	NA

A8.5.14. This upland area extends from the expansive upland moorland beyond the Heads of the Valleys, south along the upland ridge and plateau to Gelligaer Common. It is an exposed open landscape of rough grazing & bracken. Wind noise is a dominant aesthetic factor which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness. To the south Gelligaer and Merthyr Commons have a bleak and open character, comprising rounded summits above broad

sweeps of grassland/moorland across the ridgelines which separate the U-shaped valleys below. The area is remote throughout, in contrast to the adjacent valleys. There are attractive and dramatic panoramic views across the coalfield plateau and valleys, with some detractors such as pylons, urban edges and industrial estates along the A465. Operational windfarms to the north along the Heads of the Valleys corridor and east and south east on the ridges also have an indirect influence on the character. The landscape area of Gelligaer Common represents an increasingly rare survival in Southeast Wales of an area of high upland moor rich in a diverse archaeological resource that extends from the pivotal ancient settlement of Gelligaer in the southeast to the summits of Pen Garnbugail and Mynydd Fochriw in the northwest. The landscape is diverse both in its form and in its archaeological and historical content, which displays a remarkable continuity of occupation and activity.

**Table A8.30 : LCA 17 Mynydd Eglwysilan/Llanfabon**

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS317 - H	NA	NA	CYNONHL831 – O CYNONHL634 – O CYNONHL977 – O CYNONHL290 – H CYNONHL878 – O CYNONHL308 – O CYNONHL993 – H	NA

A8.5.15. This is a pleasant landscape, with some attractive rolling farmland away from the built form urban edges of Nelson, Blackwood and Treforest. It comprises an incongruous combination of elements, including rural field patterns, isolated settlements/farmsteads and built form urban edges and pylons/masts resulting in a complex overall character. The operational wind farm of Castell Llwyd Farm has some influence on the character more locally to the east of the LCA. It is essentially a rural landscape with an upland feel, including broad views across the adjacent valleys and up to upland hills/outliers of Mynydd Eglwysilan and Meio that dominate inward views. The LCA rises to high points along the ridge of Mynydd Eglwysilan. This open upland area comprises rough grazing and bracken, with some old stone walls. There are panoramic and sometimes dramatic views over upland and adjoining valleys.

**Table A8.31: LCA 20 Merthyr Common and Cwm Coity Farmland**

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	MRTHRHL014 – O MRTHRHL026 – H MRTHRHL026 – H	NA

A8.5.16. This area is one of rounded summits above broad sweeps of grassland across the ridgelines which separate the U-shaped valleys below. The vegetation pattern is simple with expanses of grass amongst enclosures generally comprising dry stone walls with some post and wire fences. A few narrow roads and tracks cross the area, and all have undefined and ragged edges. The south end of the ridge between the Taf and Taf Bargoed is at a slightly lower altitude than Merthyr Common and has all been enclosed. The Nant Cothi flows southeast out of this area and has formed a distinct bowl which belongs to neither the Taf nor Taf Bargoed. Slopes are less steep than those along the sides of the main valleys. The farmed landscapes in Cwm Cothi form a mosaic of stream side woodlands and hedged pasture giving way to stone walls at higher levels. Areas of conifers overlay the field pattern to the

west joining onto the plantations in the Taf valley. The area feels remote but contained and settlement are limited to a few isolated farmsteads linked by tracks. Single turbine operational wind farms located at Tir Cook Farm and Cefn Fforest Farm have some local influence on the LCA to the south.

Table A8.32: LCA 23 Abernant, Cefnpennar and Merthyr West Flank

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
MRTHVS917 – M	NA	NA	CYNONHL006 – H	NA
MRTHVS393 - H			CYNONHL409 – H	
			CYNONHL117 – O	
			CYNONHL856 – H	
			CYNONHL515 – O	
			MRTHRHL006 – O	
			MRTHRHL005 – O	
			MRTHRHL011 – H	
			MRTHRHL007 – H	
			MRTHRHL012 – H	
			MRTHRHL024 – H	
			MRTHRHL017 – H	

A8.5.17. This area consists of a series of valley sides rising to a distinctive ridge that separates the Taff and Cynon Valleys. The valleys sides have a strong upland feel with a pattern of field boundaries/woodland and more open upland rough grassland and moorland areas. To the east, the Merthyr West flank is akin to a massive area of urban fringe in that the influence of the town is evident throughout, yet it is still distinctly rural in its overall character. It is a complex mosaic of tips, transport features and mine sites intermingled with an upland pasture field pattern. There are areas of woodland and substantial natural regeneration, which look like natural habitats from a distance. The landscape here is exposed and raw but still has a curious mix of scales as around Winch Fawr where small fields are adjacent to massive, tipped areas. The A470 cuts through this landscape and reveals at close hand the mix of industrial heritage, field pattern and woodland on this edge of Merthyr. To the west, the flanks are similar to the east, with an upland feel, although this area has a notably high proportion of broadleaved woodland and coniferous woodland. The area provides a positive backcloth to the town of Merthyr and to Aberdare in the Cynon Valley and the distinctive sense of place with a mix of vegetation and industrial heritage features and patterns with a particular richness. The exposed and dominant ridge forms part of the coalfield plateau with long views. It has many prominent high points, which punctuate the skyline including Mynydd Gethin, Twyn Brynbychan, Cefn y Fan, Craig-yr-Efail and Mynydd Goetre-Coed. It has variable land cover which cuts across the line of the landform. Blocks of forestry contrast with open upland grassland and the forestry appears to pay little heed to the underlying land form. Coniferous plantation extends across a significant proportion of this area, including Gethin Woodland. The forestry has a major positive visual presence on the sides of the valleys. Pleasant views are possible, and the woodland is an important setting for Merthyr, Aberdare and the valleys.

Table A8.33: LCA 24 St Gwynno and Ynysybwl

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS430 - H	NA	NA	CYNONHL687 – O	NA
			CYNONHL836 – H	
			CYNONHL117 – O	
			CYNONHL833 – H	
			CYNONHL378 – O	

A8.5.18. This upland landscape is dominated by the coniferous forest of St Gwynno with small areas of rough grazing/open land interspersed amongst the plantation coups. The strongly defined undulating topography with ridges and valleys creates a multi-scaled landscape with a variety of spaces, although there are limited views out to upland areas. To the south the upland landscape is more open, with a mosaic of rough grazing, conifer plantations and small woodland/broadleaf clumps. Away from main valleys, it remains one of the most tranquil parts of the county. Locally important, due to some attractive views and areas of upland character, but this importance is compromised/diminished by the urban associations that are present in parts of the area, including pylons and urban land uses nearer the valley settlements. To the north, operational wind farm development including Maerdy Wind Farm extends an influence on the character of the LCA and more centrally, the wind farm of Ferndale adds to this.

Table A8.34: LCA 25 Merthyr North Flank

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	MRTHRHL009 – H	NA
			MRTHRHL019 – H	
			MRTHRHL003 – H	
			MRTHRHL021 – H	
			MRTHRHL005 – O	
			MRTHRHL004 – O	

A8.5.19. This LCA comprises exposed upland moorland, with a character that is generally bleak and open with long views. It is a complex area in which the variety of land uses over time have fragmented the appearance and changed the otherwise large-scale upland. The resulting mix is sometimes jarring but elsewhere the diversity adds interest. The unifying influence is the fact that these land uses have clearly altered the landscape. The LCA is influenced by proximity to the edge of Merthyr Tydfil, including from elements such as large-scale industry, retail parks and the A465. The sharply defined Taf Fechan valley runs along the north of the LCA. This is an enclosed wooded gorge that links the remote upland of Vaynor to the north with Merthyr Tydfil to the south and provides an important green corridor between the two. There are a number of routes through the gorge including lanes, a dismantled railway now used for the Taff cycle trail and the Brecon Mountain Railway. The LCA has high and outstanding values for historic landscape. The area contains the remains of the Dowlais Free Drainage System and other water-management features and quarries associated with the Dowlais Ironworks, which together represent a significant concentration of 19th century industrial water-management features of considerable historical import. More widely, the LCA provides a relict, multi-period landscape with extensive evidence of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval field patterns and settlement features.

Table A8.35: LCA 26 Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BRCKNVS738 – H	NA	NA	CYNONHL006 – H	NA
BRCKNVS982 – H			CYNONHL635 – H	
BRCKNVS838 – H			MRTHRHL002 – O	
BRCKNVS833 – O			MRTHRHL003 – H	
BRCKNVS797 – H			BRCKNHL864 – O	
MRTHRVS393 – H			BRCKNHL829 – O	
MRTHRVS387 – H			BRCKNHL270 – H	

A8.5.20. This LCA is characterised by its reservoirs, surrounded by steep sided, dark green forested valleys. Between the reservoir valleys are more open ridges of upland moorland which have long views across the reservoirs and their surrounding forests. Pockets of fields, farms and woodland remain (for example around Vaynor) which give an indication of how the valleys would have looked prior to their flooding. The area has strong links with the towns to the south; providing natural resources such as limestone and water, and also acting as a transport corridor. A Roman road, turnpike road (now the A470), industrial tramways, and the Brecon and Merthyr Railway (now forming part of the Taff Trail) all run through this LCA. This is a popular recreation destination and is easily accessed from Merthyr Tydfil and from the A470. Key views include the attractive compositions of water, trees and distant hills which can be seen from many lakeside viewpoints. Higher ridges have views across the reservoir valleys, into the surrounding LCAs, and also encompass land beyond the National Park boundary. There are views across this LCA from surrounding uplands including the Central Beacons, and from popular summit viewpoints such as Pen y Fan.

Table A8.36 : LCA 27 Central Beacons

Visual and sensory	Landscape and the	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BRCKNVS833 – O	NA	NA	BRCKNHL829 – O	NA
BRCKNVS797 – H			BRCKNHL864 – O	
BRCKNVS738 – H				
BRCKNVS838 – H				

A8.5.21. The Central Beacons LCA is located in the centre of the National Park, and includes Pen y Fan, its highest point. The dramatic sandstone crags which form the northern face of this LCA are one of the most distinctive and iconic features of the National Park and form the setting to the town of Brecon and its surroundings. As the highest land in the National Park, the Central Beacons have spectacular views in all directions and provide popular walking routes. It has a sense of being at the heart of the National Park, detached from the more developed areas to the north and south. This landscape illustrates human interaction with the landscape over a very long period of time, from clearance of the land in prehistoric times, to the WW2 remains and military memorials of the 20th century. One of the primary influences on this landscape has been the changing patterns of grazing over many centuries, often by hefted flocks of local breeds of sheep and cattle. There is very little settlement within this LCA, although the remains of former settlements can be seen at the periphery of the area. The high peaks of the Central Beacons LCA contribute to the distinctive settings of lower-lying settlements, particularly Brecon. Panoramic views in all

directions from summits and a sense of being 'on top of the world', whilst experiencing the full east-west extent of the Brecon Beacons. This LCA also forms the backdrop to views from adjacent uplands and valleys.

Table A8.37: LCA 28 Mynydd Oedd Llangatwg and Llangynidr

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BRCKNVS372 – H	NA	NA	BRCKNHL133 – O	NA
BRCKNVS838 – H			BRCKNHL864 – O	
BRCKNVS361 – H			BRCKNHL636 – H	
BLNGWVS399 – H			MNMTHHL030 – O	
MNMTHVS008 – H			BLNGWHL010 – H	
MNMTHVS001 – M				

A8.5.22. This LCA is located on the southern edge of the National Park, stretching between the settlements of Merthyr Tydfil and Brynmawr. It comprises an elevated plateau of moorland, characterised by its openness, smooth profile, lack of settlement, prehistoric archaeology and quarrying legacy. It contains many features of a karst (limestone) landscape, and a mosaic of high-quality moorland habitats. Despite its proximity to settlements, much of the area retains an open, undeveloped quality and is not heavily used for recreation although it has been used recently as a set for various films and TV programmes, its crags and moorland also provide a dramatic and seasonally-changing backdrop to surrounding lower land. The lack of modern settlement, forestry or other built development within the LCA has enabled the survival of a rich prehistoric ritual/ ceremonial landscape of individual cairns and a cairn cemetery. The most prominent modern features in the landscape are the huge limestone quarries, and the few modern structures in the landscape are associated with quarrying, e.g. tramroads and miners' housing. This LCA is characterised by its lack of settlement, although it does form an undeveloped moorland backdrop/ skyline in views from more settled areas, including towns and villages in the Usk Valley (e.g. Abergavenny, Llangattock and Crickhowell) and the Clydach Gorge. It also contributes to the settings of settlements immediately beyond the National Park boundary such as Brynmawr. Key views include prehistoric sites, views northwards across the Usk Valley and the hills beyond, and views across to the Central Beacons. This LCA also forms the horizon in views from the Usk Valley and from high land including the Central Beacons and the western part of the Black Mountains. Operational wind farms along the Heads of the Valleys corridor and on the skyline further south have an indirect influence on the character of the LCA.

Table A8.38: LCA 29 Mynydd Llangynidr

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BLNGWVS399 – H	NA	NA	BLNGWHL001 – H	NA
BLNGWVS352 – H			BLNGWHL002 – H	
BLNGWVS307 - M			BLNGWHL005 – H	

A8.5.23. This area forms all of the northern edge of Blaenau Gwent and consists of generally of expansive south-facing gently undulating slopes of Brecon Beacons. Landcover is mainly open grassy moorland with patches of heather, outcrops of rocks, pools and one or two larger areas of water, but few trees or prominent features. It appears vast, uninviting, bleak, exposed and un-peopled contrasting abruptly with 'busy' Heads of Valleys areas. There are wide views to empty horizons especially northward giving expansive sense of place. The few signs of man's past activity relating to extractive industry include tramways, small quarries, and the 'patches' adds poignancy. Away from the

immediate vicinity of the A465 and edges of towns it is very quiet, with little access and no settlements. Detractors within view include adjacent roads and developments relating to A465 and industrial estates. Operational wind farms along the Heads of the Valleys corridor may have some indirect influence on the character of the LCA more to the south, including developments at Eurocaps Ltd, Unit 29/Waldrons Commercials Unit, Former Tech Board Site Rassau Industrial Estate and Unit 15 (Rassau Ind Est). There are panoramic attractive views across ridges and open upland and rural views throughout the area; seen from heads of valleys as wild upland landscapes.

Table A8.39: LCA 32 The Black Mountains

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BRCKNVS660 - O	NA	NA	BRCKNHL567 – H	NA
BRCKNVS858 – O			BRCKNHL172 – H	
BRCKNVS368 – H			BRCKNHL636 – H	
BRCKNVS522 – H			BRCKNHL285 – O	
BRCKNVS580 – H			BRCKNHL642 – H	
MNMTHVS005 – O			BRCKNHL890 – H	
MNMTHVS022 – H			BRCKNHL176 – H	
MNMTHVS020 – O			MNMTHHL033 – H	
MNMTHVS006 – O				
MNMTHVS029 – H				

A8.5.24. This large area includes the highest land associated with the Black Mountains. It is located on the eastern edge of the National Park, and its character extends beyond the National Park boundary into England. It is largely defined by its topography: a series of broad ridges running north-south and separated by narrow, steep-sided valleys. The higher moorlands are empty and remote, contrasting with the more pastoral and settled valleys between them. This is a rich archaeological landscape. Surviving Medieval landscape features include Llanthony Priory, Cwmyoy church and many of the lanes and farms. The lack of modern development, and the continuation of traditional farming practices of valley pasture and upland common land has enabled the survival of many earlier features. The Black Mountains is very lightly settled, with scattered farms and hamlets in valleys, usually constructed of local stone. However, it forms the backdrop and setting for larger settlements; the northern scarp creates a distinctive setting for Hay-on-Wye and other settlements along the Wye valley, and the ridge of Pen Cerrig- calch (and the hillfort at Table Mountain) contribute to the setting of Crickhowell and settlements in the Usk Valley. Panoramic views are obtained from high land over surrounding LCAs and out of the National Park to the north and east. The distinctive northern scarp and long ridges of this area contribute to views from a considerable distance away, including from Herefordshire to the east, and from the northern side of the Wye Valley, beyond the National Park. This LCA also contributes to the setting of the Usk Valley and is visible from many summits and areas of high land within the National Park.

Table A8.40: LCA 33 Skirrid and Sugar Loaf

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BRCKNVS580 – H	NA	NA	MNMTHHL033 – H	NA
BRCKNVS369 – O			BRCKNHL176 – H	

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
MNMTHVS004 – O			BRCKNHL890 – H	
MNMTHVS029 – H				
MNMTHVS007 – H				
MNMTHVS022 – H				
MNMTHVS020 – O				
MNMTHVS006 – O				
MNMTHVS015 – H				
MNMTHVS012 – O				

A8.5.25. This LCA is noted for the distinctive pointed summit of Sugar Loaf and landslip cleft of Skirrid, both of which are prominent landmarks over a wide area, including Abergavenny, the eastern end of the Usk valley and surrounding uplands. They provide popular walking routes for visitors and local people, affording panoramic views over the surrounding valleys, Somerset and the Bristol Channel, the Malvern Hills and across to the Black Mountains. Their open moorland contrasts with the surrounding lower land, which is characterised by farmland, woodland and deep flower-rich lanes. This landscape contains evidence for its settlement and defence over many centuries, but with a particular concentration of Medieval sites such as churches, inns, castles and Abergavenny Priory Deer Park. There are also two 17th gardens and their associated country houses, prehistoric round cairns on Sugar Loaf and a prehistoric hillfort at Twyn-y-gaer. Key views within the LCA are those from the summits of Sugar Loaf and Skirrid, which are strongly influenced by surrounding LCAs (and in the case of Skirrid, by land outside the National Park and into England). This LCA also plays an important role in the setting of Abergavenny and has a strong visual relationship with the town. It is a prominent feature in views from several surrounding LCA.

Table A8.41: LCA 38 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	TRFNHL018 – H CYNONHL465 - H	NA

A8.5.26. This is an area of upland comprising both heath and grassland on the western slopes of Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd. These areas are largely flanked by coniferous plantation woodland with more open areas to the east. Within the valleys to the west there is mosaic of small fields. Views to adjacent upland areas and to the urban area of Newbridge in the valley to the west are available from elevated open land. This LCA possesses an upland sense of place engendered by feelings of elevation, rough ground and conifer plantations, with views to neighbouring upland areas. Visual detractors within views include overhead power lines and telecom mast, strong intrusive vertical elements that disrupt the mosaic pattern of the landscape.

Table A8.42: LCA 40 Twmbarlwm and Cwmcarn

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	CYNONHL374 – H	NA

A8.5.27. This upland area of ridges and valleys rises to a high point at Twmbarlwm. Much of the area is clothed with a mosaic of coniferous plantation and mixed deciduous woodland. At the peak of Twmbarlwm, spectacular

panoramic open views across adjacent wooded valleys, and urban areas are available. This area is of historic value. A round barrow is located on Twmbarlwm's highest natural point but has since had part of its western edge eroded away by the ditch of a much later Norman Mott. An oval rampart and ditch built around Twmbarlwm's summit is testament to the resources expended in the Iron Age by peoples wishing to occupy this elevated moorland. The aspect's strategic importance is attested not only by the Iron Age hillfort but also by the construction of a Norman Mott within the ramparts of the earlier fort. Visual detractors include overhead power lines and telecom masts, strong intrusive vertical elements that disrupt the mosaic pattern of the landscape.

Table A8.43: LCA 42 North West of Mynydd y Lan

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	CYNONHL660 – H	NA

A8.5.28. This is an area of sloping pastoral farmland that borders the built form lower down the valley side up to 300m AOD as it approaches the plateau of Mynydd y Lan. The area is relatively open with views out across the Sirhowy Valley and to the settlements of Pontllanfraith and Blackwood to the north. On the lower slopes a number of small linear areas of broadleaved woodland extend up the slopes. A network of minor roads extend through the area. A solar farm is now located centrally within the area.

Table A8.44: LCA 43 Mynydd y Lan

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS854 - H	NA	NA	NA	NA

A8.5.29. This area comprises an open upland ridge with land cover of rough grazing and bracken. Some relic stone walls are notable, but otherwise the area is open with panoramic views out over lower lying land to the south and to the south and west. To the north there are views to higher land, including the built-up areas of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith. Some visual clutter of pylons slightly detracts from this otherwise wild/exposed typical upland area. The area does not feel remote due to the proximity of the adjacent valleys and their associated urban areas. This is an upland area with a strong sense of place and accessible views. There are some visual detractors within the views, but these are of limited extent/prominence.

Table A8.45: LCA 44 Valley Slopes Sirhowy, Machen and Ystrad Mynach

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	CYNONHL660 – H	NA
			CYNONHL465 – H	
			CYNONHL701 – H	
			CYNONHL556 – O	

A8.5.30. This is an area of sloping valley side to the east of the Rhymney and west of the Sirhowy valleys. The land generally slopes upwards from the base of the valley to approximately 300 m AOD at the top of the slopes. The landform is a mix of pastoral farmland in field enclosures, woodland blocks (both broadleaved and coniferous plantation). Much of the is open in character with views across Caerphilly and the Rhymney Valley. Towards the south-east of the Aspect Area near Machen and to the east along the Sirhowy Valley the slopes are steep and wooded resulting

in a more enclosed and upland feel to these areas. Overall, the area is open and has attractive views across the adjacent valleys, but it lacks remarkable/valuable/unique features. Furthermore, the coniferous plantations and views of developed areas in the valleys detract to an extent. Operational wind farm developments at Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth have some influence on the character of the LCA to the north.

Table A8.46: LCA 45 Mynydd y Grug

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS129 - M	NA	NA	CYNONHL701 – H	NA
			CYNONHL556 – O	

A8.5.31. This is a small LCA comprising a ridgeline of open grass & conifer woodland, with some limited enclosure by stone walls. Wind noise is a dominant aesthetic factor which evokes particular experiences of exposure and wildness. The area is remote with dramatic views in all directions, including south to Caerphilly. Operational wind farm developments at Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth have some indirect influence on the character of the LCA.

Table A8.47: LCA 48 Rhymney Valley South of Caerphilly

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CRDFFVS024 – H	NA	NA	CYNONHL701 – H	NA
CRDFFVS016 – H			CYNONHL977 – O	
CRDFFVS017 – H			CYNONHL596 – O	
CRDFFVS069 - H			CYNONHL586 – O	
			CRDFFHL006 – H	

A8.5.32. This is a small LCA comprises a wide valley sloping gently upwards to the south, the steepness of the slope increasing as the land rises up to areas such as Caerphilly and Rudry Commons. The land use is a mix of pastoral farmland on the slopes and coniferous plantations and Bracken dominated land associated with the higher areas such as Caerphilly and Rudry Commons. There are views across the valley and down into the Valley with the settlement of Caerphilly being a dominant feature in the foreground. The coniferous plantations and views out onto urban areas detract from the character although there are visually attractive elements, including Caerphilly Common. The LCA has outstanding historical landscape values and is described as a complex, multi-period landscape containing evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation.

Table A8.48: LCA 78 Mynydd y Glyn

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS142 – M	NA	NA	CYNONHL687 – O	NA
CYNONVS496 – H			CYNONHL378 – O	
CYNONVS113 – H			CYNONHL888 – O	
CYNONVS622 – H			CYNONHL999 – H	
			CYNONHL649 – H	
			CYNONHL977 – O	

A8.5.33. This LCA comprises an area of rolling topography descending from the dominating hills of Mynydd y Glyn, Pen y Craig, and Maendy. There are expansive attractive views out to the west, south and east from most areas, and to the north from more elevated locations. The minor valleys within the landscape create a wide spectrum of scales from small (valley) to large (elevated upland) and the woodland blocks in river valleys and conifer blocks on higher slopes add to the visual complexity. Some urban edges to the north detract slightly from what is essentially an expansive open upland area. Operational wind farms at Fforch Nest (Mynydd Pwllrhebog extension), Fforch Nest and Bwllfa Farm also have an influence on the character of the LCA to the north. There are outstanding historical landscape values for this LCA, based on the fact that it represents a remarkably well-preserved multi-period upland landscape, containing evidence of human activity dating back to the Mesolithic era, including sites of national importance such as the extensive settlement site of Hen Dre'r Mynydd, the largest undefended Iron Age settlement in south east Wales.

**Table A8.49: LCA 80 Mynydd Maendy**

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS436 - H	NA	NA	CYNONHL888 – O	NA

A8.5.34. This LCA comprises an undulating ridge-like landform with a distinct upland character. There are extensive views to uplands and over adjacent lower farmland to the coast. Lower lying parts have a strong field pattern defined partially by hedgerow/trees but on higher ground land cover is predominantly open rough grass and bracken, with scattered clumps of trees. There are also larger areas of conifer plantation forestry. The operational windfarm of Mynydd Portref Extension invokes a strong influence through this area adding to the influence of other detractors including pylons and traffic using the A473 road. The LCA has historic landscape value, representing an exceptionally rich, diverse multi-period upland landscape with continuous evidence of human activity from prehistory to the present day.

**Table A8.50: LCA 85 St Gwynno**

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS113 - H	NA	NA	CYNONHL687 – O CYNONHL805 – O CYNONHL378 – O	NA

A8.5.35. This is a small LCA comprising an upland landscape dominated by coniferous forest with small areas of rough grazing/open land interspersed. The area is strongly defined by its undulating topography with ridges and valleys creating a multi-scaled landscape with a variety of spaces. The LCA has some recreational amenity value, indicated by picnic sites, trails and carparking. It is also a remarkably well-preserved multi-period upland landscape, containing evidence of human activity dating back to the Mesolithic era, including sites of national importance such as the extensive settlement site of Hen Dre'r Mynydd, the largest undefended Iron Age settlement in SE Wales. Operational wind farm development of Pen-y-Cymoedd extends across this area and has a strong influence on the character. There is also some loss of coherence from industrial extractive activity.

**Table A8.51: LCA 96 Fforest Fawr**

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BRCKNVS307 – H	NA	NA	BRCKNHL829 – O	NA
BRCKNVS141 – O			BRCKNHL953 – H	
BRCKNVS955 – O			BRCKNHL735 – H	
CYNONVS735 - H			CYNONHL176 – O CYNONHL002 – H CYNONHL635 – H	

A8.5.36. This LCA comprises a bleak, upland moorland landscape, simple and expansive, with colours and textures varying subtly with the underlying geology. Much of the LCA remains inaccessible except on foot, giving a sense of tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness. The LCA has a high scenic quality due to its dramatic landform such as Fan Gyhirych Fan Frynych and Fan Fawr, which form important parts of the Beacons skyline. The area has panoramic views and forms the backcloth to the lower valleys to the north and south. The character is influenced by its past use as a royal hunting ground and more recent estate ownership, apparent through the dry-stone boundary walls, estate cottages, shelterbelts and former rabbit farms. There are remains of prehistoric and medieval occupation, and later industrial archaeological sites. This includes the former Cnewr Estate, created in the 18th Century as an agri-industrial estate farming rabbits which diversified into mineral exploitation and other industries. It was served by a complex farming infrastructure and was crossed by a network of roads and tramways connecting it to the south Wales valleys and to Swansea via the Brecon and Swansea canal (and later the Swansea and Neath railway) at Ystradgynlais. Much of the area is now common land and the landscape pattern is little changed from its 19th Century heyday. Some minor indirect influence may be evident from wind farm development in LCAs to the south.

**Table A8.52: LCA 126 Llangovan Foothills**

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NWPRTVS030 – H	NA	NA	MNMTHHL018 – H	NA
MNMTHVS027 - H			MNMTHHL065 – H MNMTHHL050 – H MNMTHHL064 – H MNMTHHL063 – H MNMTHHL051 – O MNMTHHL018 – H MNMTHHL052 – H MNMTHHL058 – H NWPRTL009 – H NWPRTL046 – H	

A8.5.37. This LCA comprises an outward facing, exposed and windswept scarp slope, with long panoramic views towards the floodplain of the Usk and across the undulating valleys around Llansoy and Llangovan in the west. The steep scarp slopes stretch in a linear fashion from Penallt in the north, to Devauden and Pen-y-caemawr in the south. It is a heavily wooded landscape intermingled with scrub, bracken and enclaves of rough grassland on steep slopes.

Larger fields of improved pasture dominate lower valley sides, bounded by a mixture of low intensively managed hedges and thick mature hedges on upper slopes. Roads wind their way up steep valley sides connecting cottages, estates and farmsteads affording long views over the valleys below. There are numerous linear villages skirting along the plateau edge, but the generally unspoilt by modern development. The LCA is also characterised by individual country houses, parkland and farmsteads on the slopes affording long views over the undulating lowland valleys below. The scarp slope is an extensive and rare feature. It also possesses historic landscape values, for its prehistoric, and early medieval/medieval remains.

## A8.6. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

### Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character

#### Consented Wind Farm Developments

A8.6.1. Table A8.53 identifies landscape character areas that may have potential for significant cumulative effects as a result of the addition of consented wind farm developments. Likely effects are considered within sections 8.8 within Chapter 8 of the ES. Where LCA's are identified for exclusion in the table, these have been excluded from further assessment and are not considered further.

Table A8.53: Landscape Character Areas with potential for significant cumulative landscape effects with consented wind farm developments

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 01 Mynydd Manmoel	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proposed development within to site.			
LCA 02 Pentrapoed East	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 03 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr & Ebbw Fach Valleys	Excluded from further assessment, due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance, and scale of consented developments.			
LCA 04 Mynydd Carn-y-cefn & Cefn yr Arail	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 05 Beaufort Hill	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 06 Tredegar Post Industrial	X			X
LCA 07 Cwm Tyleri/Blaina valley Sides	X			X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 08 Coity Mountain	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 09 Ebbw Vale, Waun-Llwyd, Cwm	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 10 Tredegaer	Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects limited to north western slopes but, due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development, wide separation distance, scale of consented developments and intervening vegetation, significant effects within the LCA are unlikely.			
LCA 11 Sirhowy Valley & Valley North of Blackwood	Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant as restricted by well vegetated valley and limited interaction between the proposed and consented development, wide separation distance, scale of consented developments.			
LCA 12 Mynydd Bedwelty	Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development, wide separation distance, scale/limited influence of consented developments due to intervening topography.			
LCA 13 Pentrapoed West	Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across southern parts of the LCA.			
LCA 14 Blackwood	Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development, wide separation distance, scale of consented developments and screening intervening vegetation and buildings.			
LCA 15 Darren Valley	Excluded from further assessment. Although the consented development of Cefn-y-brithdir Farm is within the LCA, it has only limited interaction with the proposed development. There is limited influence from the proposed development and other consented windfarms across the LCA due to intervening topography and vegetation.			
LCA 16 Gelligaer Common/West of Rhymney	Carried forward for further assessment due to some potential interaction, although unlikely to be significant due to scale of consented developments and separation distance?			
LCA 17 Mynydd Eglwysilan/Llanfabon	Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance.			
LCA 18 Rhondda Taff Vale	X			X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 19 Ffos-y-fran Merthyr Upper East Flan		Excluded from further assessment. Industrial landscape with limited visibility.		
LCA 20 Merthyr Common & Cwm Cothi Farmlands		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.		
LCA 21 Mid Taff Vale & Merthyr East Flank		Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance.		
LCA 22 Merthyr Tydfil	X			X
LCA 23 Abernant, Cefnpennar & Merthyr West Flank		Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to extensive afforestation screening views and limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance.		
LCA 24 St Gwynno and Ynysybwl		Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to extensive afforestation screening views and limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance.		
LCA 25 Merthyr North Flank	X			X
LCA 26 Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys	X			X
LCA 27 Central Beacons		Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to distance and scale of development within wide panorama.		
LCA 28 Mynydd Oedd Llangatwg & Llangynidr		Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.		
LCA 29 Mynydd Llangynidr		Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.		
LCA 30 Eastern Usk Valley	X			X
LCA 31 Clydach Gorge	X			X
LCA 32 The Black Mountains		Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance and scale of consented developments within the receiving landscape.		
LCA 33 Skirrid and Sugar Loaf	X			X
LCA 34 Blaenavon (Western Slopes)	X			X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 35 Blaenavon East Slopes	X			X
LCA 36 Valley Slopes West of Abersychan	X			X
LCA 37 Blorenghe Hills & Slopes	X			X
LCA 38 Mynydd Llwyd & Mynydd Maen		Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.		
LCA 39 Cwmbran Western Slopes	X			X
LCA 40 Twmbarlwm & Cwmcarn		Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance and scale of consented developments within the receiving landscape.		
LCA 41 Risca	X			X
LCA 42 North West of Mynydd y Lan		Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.		
LCA 43 Mynydd y Lan		Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.		
LCA 44 Valley Slopes Sirhowy, Machen & Ystrad Mynach		Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.		
LCA 45 Mynydd y Grug		Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.		
LCA 46 Michaelston-y-Fedw	X			X
LCA 47 Machen Slopes	X			X
LCA 48 Rhymney Valley South of Caerphilly		Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance and scale of consented developments within the receiving landscape.		
LCA 49 Caerphilly	X			X
LCA 50 Wentlooge Levels South West	X			X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 51 Lamby Way Tip	X			X
LCA 52 Cardiff	X			X
LCA 53 Flatholm	X			X
LCA 54 Penarth and Cogan	X			X
LCA 55 Sully Ridges and Cosmeston	X			X
LCA 56 Cwrt yr Ala Lowlands	X			X
LCA 57 Cog Moors	X			X
LCA 58 Barry	X			X
LCA 59 Ystradowen Lowland Valleys				X
LCA 60 Hensol Forest	X			X
LCA 61 Upper Thaw Valley	X			X
LCA 62 Lower Thaw Valley	X			X
LCA 63 Cowbridge	X			X
LCA 64 Lias Plateau				X
LCA 65 Llandow Trading Estate				X
LCA 66 Llantwit Major				X
LCA 67 St Athan	X			X
LCA 68 Thaw Estuary	X			X
LCA 69 Central Vale Ridges and Slopes	X			X
LCA 70 Lower Waycock Valley	X			X
LCA 71 Upper Waycock Valley & Duffryn	X			X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 72 Cardiff International Airport	X			X
LCA 73 Rhoose and Pothkerry Hinterlands	X			X
LCA 74 Heritage Coast Hinterland	X			X
LCA 75 Pentyrch	X			X
LCA 76 Llantrisant	X			X
LCA 77 Hendre	X			X
LCA 78 Mynydd y Glyn	Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development, wide separation distance, scale of consented developments and screening by intervening vegetation.			
LCA 79 Bettws & Nant Muchudd	X			X
LCA 80 Mynydd Maendy	X			X
LCA 81 Hirwaun Common & Surrounding Ridges	X			X
LCA 82 Ogmored Forest & Surrounding Uplands	X			X
LCA 83 Mynydd Llangeinwyr Uplands	X			X
LCA 84 Cefn y Rhondda & Treherbert	X			X
LCA 85 St Gwynno	Existing wind farm of Pen y Cymoedd located within boundary of LCA, however excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to extensive afforestation screening views and limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance.			
LCA 86 Mynydd Resolven, Craig-y-Llyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg	X			X
LCA 87 Waterfall Country & Southern Uplands	X			X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 88 Neath Valley	X			X
LCA 89 Banwen Pyrddin & Head of Dulais Valley	X			X
LCA 90 Hirfynydd	Existing wind farms of Maes Gwyn Extension and Maes Gwyn and consented wind farm of Maes Gwyn Extension (Phase 2) are located within boundary of LCA, however excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to extensive afforestation screening views and limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance.			
LCA 91 Mynydd Marchywel	X			X
LCA 92 Slopes of Cefn Gwrhyd & Cwm Egel	X			X
LCA 93 Mynydd Uchaf, Mynydd Garth & Cefn Gwrhyd				X
LCA 94 Mynydd Uchaf & Mynydd Garth	X			X
LCA 95 Mynydd Du	X			X
LCA 96 Fforest Fawr	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 97 Ysgir & Honddu Valley	X			X
LCA 98 Mynydd Eppynt & Uplands	X			X
LCA 99 Llaneglwys Wood	X			X
LCA 100 Twyn-y-Gaer	X			X
LCA 101 Onllandefalle Common	X			X
LCA 102 Duhonw Valley & Erwood Hinterland	X			X
LCA 103 Felinfach and Llanfilo Farmlands	X			X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 104 Glascwm, Llandeilo & Gwaunceste Hills	X			X
LCA 105 Radnorshire Rolling Hills South East	X			X
LCA 106 The Begwns	X			X
LCA 107 Monmouthshire Northern Hills	X			X
LCA 108 Graig Syfyrddin	X			X
LCA 109 Grey Valley Settled Farmland	X			X
LCA 110 Whitfield, Kingston	X			X
LCA 111 Cobhall Common	X			X
LCA 112 Felmont Abbey & Newtown	X			X
LCA 113 The Rhydd				X
LCA 114 Aconbury Hill				X
LCA 115 Orcop Hill	X			X
LCA 116 Cross Llydd Wooded Estate & Farmland	X			X
LCA 117 Garway Hill Common	X			X
LCA 118 River Monnow Valley	X			X
LCA 119 St Weonards Wooded Hills & Farmland	X			X
LCA 120 Kynaston Settled Farmland	X			X
LCA 121 Buckholt Woods	X			X
LCA 122 Ganarew Wooded Hills	X			X
LCA 123 Symonds Yat West	X			X
LCA 124 Coppet Hill	X			X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 125 Trellech Grange	X			X
LCA 126 Llangovan Foothills	Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance and scale of consented developments within the receiving landscape.			
LCA 127 Llangeview	X			X
LCA 128 Southern Usk Valley	X			X
LCA 129 Llandegfedd Reservoir	X			X
LCA 130 Parkland Wye Valley	X			X
LCA 131 Trellech Commons & Forest	X			X
LCA 132 Trellech Plateaux	X			X
LCA 133 Devauden Escarpment	X			X
LCA 134 The Wye Valley	X			X
LCA 135 Coleford, Christchurch & Bricknor Hills	X			X
LCA 136 Ruardean Hills	X			X
LCA 137 Forest of Dean Core	X			X
LCA 138 Tiddenham Chase & St Briavels Common	X			X
LCA 139 Caldicot Levels	X			X
LCA 140 Pilning Levels				X
LCA 141 Avonmouth				X
LCA 142 Portishead	X			X
LCA 143 Portishead Ridges & Combes	X			X
LCA 144 Clevedon				X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 145 Tickenham Ridges & Combes	X			X
LCA 146 Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands				X
LCA 147 Kingston Saymour & Puxton Moors				X
LCA 148 Middlehope Ridges & Combes				X

**Submitted Wind Farm Developments**

A8.6.2. Table A8.54 identifies landscape character areas that may have potential for significant cumulative effects as a result of the addition of consented wind farm developments. Likely effects are considered within section 8.8 of Chapter 8 within the ES. Where LCA's are identified for exclusion in the table, these have been excluded from further assessment and are not considered further.

**Table A8.54: Landscape Character Areas with potential for significant cumulative landscape effects**

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 01 Mynydd Manmoel	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proposed development within to site.			
LCA 02 Pentrapoed East	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 03 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr & Ebbw Fach Valleys	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 04 Mynydd Carn-y-cefn & Cefn yr Arail	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 05 Beaufort Hill	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 06 Tredegar Post Industrial	X			X
LCA 07 Cwm Tyleri/Blaina valley Sides	X			X
LCA 08 Coity Mountain	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 09 Ebbw Vale, Waun-Llwyd, Cwm	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site.			
LCA 10 Tredegaer	Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects limited to north western slopes but, due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development, wide separation distance, scale of application developments and intervening vegetation, significant effects within the LCA are unlikely.			
LCA 11 Sirhowy Valley & Valley North of Blackwood	Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant as restricted by well vegetated valley and limited interaction between the proposed and application development, wide separation distance, scale of application developments.			
LCA 12 Mynydd Bedwellty	Ex.			

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 13 Pentrapoed West	Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across southern parts of the LCA.			
LCA 14 Blackwood	Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across southern parts of the LCA.			
LCA 15 Darren Valley	Excluded from further assessment. There is limited influence from the proposed development and other application windfarms across the LCA due to intervening topography and vegetation.			
LCA 16 Gelligaer Common/West of Rhymney)	Carried forward for further assessment due to some potential interaction, although unlikely to be significant due to scale of application developments and separation distance.			
LCA 17 Mynydd Eglwysilan/Llanfabon				
LCA 18 Rhondda Taff Vale	X			X
LCA 19 Ffos-y-fran Merthyr Upper East Flan	Excluded from further assessment. Industrial landscape with limited visibility.			
LCA 20 Merthyr Common & Cwm Cothi Farmlands				
LCA 21 Mid Taff Vale & Merthyr East Flank	Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to limited interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance.			
LCA 22 Merthyr Tydfil	X			X
LCA 23 Abernant, Cefnpennar & Merthyr West Flank				
LCA 24 St Gwynno and Ynysybwll				
LCA 25 Merthyr North Flank	X			X
LCA 26 Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys	X			X
LCA 27 Central Beacons	Carried forward for further assessment. Potential effects however unlikely to be significant due to distance and scale of development within wide panorama.			

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 28 Mynydd Oedd Llangatwg & Llangynidr	Carried forward for further assessment. Potential effects however unlikely to be significant due to distance and scale of development within wide panorama.			
LCA 29 Mynydd Llangynidr	Carried forward for further assessment. Potential effects however unlikely to be significant due to distance and scale of development within wide panorama.			
LCA 30 Eastern Usk Valley	X			X
LCA 31 Clydach Gorge	X			X
LCA 32 The Black Mountains	Carried forward for further assessment. Potential effects however unlikely to be significant due to distance and scale of development within wide panorama.			
LCA 33 Skirrid and Sugar Loaf	X			X
LCA 34 Blaenavon (Western Slopes)	X			X
LCA 35 Blaenavon East Slopes	X			X
LCA 36 Valley Slopes West of Abersychan	X			X
LCA 37 Bloreng Hill & Slopes	X			X
LCA 38 Mynydd Llwyd & Mynydd Maen	Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area.			
LCA 39 Cwmbran Western Slopes	X			X
LCA 40 Twmbarlwm & Cwmcarn	Carried forward for further assessment. Potential effects however unlikely to be significant due to distance and scale of development within wide panorama.			
LCA 41 Risca	X			X
LCA 42 North West of Mynydd y Lan	Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area.			
LCA 43 Mynydd y Lan	Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area.			

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 44 Valley Slopes Sirhowy, Machen & Ystrad Mynach	Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area.			
LCA 45 Mynydd y Grug	Carried forward for further assessment due to cumulative visibility across aspect area.			
LCA 46 Michaelston-y-Fedw	X			X
LCA 47 Machen Slopes	X			X
LCA 48 Rhymney Valley South of Caerphilly	Carried forward for further assessment. Potential effects however unlikely to be significant due to distance and scale of development within wide panorama.			
LCA 49 Caerphilly	X	X		X
LCA 50 Wentlooge Levels South West	X	X		X
LCA 51 Lamby Way Tip	X	X		X
LCA 52 Cardiff	X	X		X
LCA 53 Flatholm	X	X		X
LCA 54 Penarth and Cogan	X			X
LCA 55 Sully Ridges and Cosmeston	X			X
LCA 56 Cwrt yr Ala Lowlands	X			X
LCA 57 Cog Moors	X			X
LCA 58 Barry	X			X
LCA 59 Ystradowen Lowland Valleys				X
LCA 60 Hensol Forest	X			X
LCA 61 Upper Thaw Valley	X			X
LCA 62 Lower Thaw Valley	X			X
LCA 63 Cowbridge	X			X
LCA 64 Lias Plateau				X
LCA 65 Llandow Trading Estate				X
LCA 66 Llantwit Major				X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 67 St Athan	X			X
LCA 68 Thaw Estuary	X			X
LCA 69 Central Vale Ridges and Slopes	X			X
LCA 70 Lower Waycock Valley	X			X
LCA 71 Upper Waycock Valley & Duffryn	X			X
LCA 72 Cardiff International Airport	X			X
LCA 73 Rhoose and Pothkerry Hinterlands	X			X
LCA 74 Heritage Coast Hinterland	X			X
LCA 75 Pentyrch	X			X
LCA 76 Llantrisant	X			X
LCA 77 Hendre	X			X
LCA 78 Mynydd y Glyn	Carried forward for further assessment. Potential effects however unlikely to be significant due to distance and scale of development within wide panorama.			
LCA 79 Bettws & Nant Muchudd	X			X
LCA 80 Mynydd Maendy	X			X
LCA 81 Hirwaun Common & Surrounding Ridges	X			X
LCA 82 Ogmored Forest & Surrounding Uplands	X			X
LCA 83 Mynydd Llangeinwyr Uplands	X			X
LCA 84 Cefn y Rhondda & Treherbert	X			X
LCA 85 St Gwynno	Existing wind farm of Pen y Cymoedd located within boundary of LCA, however excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to extensive afforestation screening views and limited			

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
interaction between the proposed and consented development due to wide separation distance.				
LCA 86 Mynydd Resolven, Craig-y-Llyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg	X			X
LCA 87 Waterfall Country & Southern Uplands	X			X
LCA 88 Neath Valley	X			X
LCA 89 Banwen Pyrddin & Head of Dulais Valley	X			X
LCA 90 Hirfynydd	Existing wind farms of Maes Gwyn Extension and Maes Gwyn and consented wind farm of Maes Gwyn Extension (Phase 2) are located within boundary of LCA, however excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to extensive afforestation screening views and limited interaction between the proposed and application development due to wide separation distance.			
LCA 91 Mynydd Marchywel	X			X
LCA 92 Slopes of Cefn Gwrhyd & Cwm Egel	X			X
LCA 93 Mynydd Uchaf, Mynydd Garth & Cefn Gwrhyd				X
LCA 94 Mynydd Uchaf & Mynydd Garth	X			X
LCA 95 Mynydd Du	X			X
LCA 96 Fforest Fawr	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area.			
LCA 97 Ysgir & Honddu Valley	X			X
LCA 98 Mynydd Eppynt & Uplands	X			X
LCA 99 Llaneglwys Wood	X			X
LCA 100 Twyn-y-Gaer	X			X
LCA 101 Onllandefalle Common	X			X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 102 Duhonw Valley & Erwood Hinterland	X			X
LCA 103 Felinfach and Llanfilo Farmlands	X			X
LCA 104 Glascwm, Llandeilo & Gwaunceste Hills	X			X
LCA 105 Radnorshire Rolling Hills South East	X			X
LCA 106 The Begwns	X			X
LCA 107 Monmouthshire Northern Hills	X			X
LCA 108 Graig Syfyrddin	X			X
LCA 109 Grey Valley Settled Farmland	X			X
LCA 110 Whitfield, Kingston	X			X
LCA 111 Cobhall Common	X			X
LCA 112 Felmont Abbey & Newtown	X			X
LCA 113 The Rhydd				X
LCA 114 Aconbury Hill				X
LCA 115 Orcop Hill	X			X
LCA 116 Cross Llydd Wooded Estate & Farmland	X			X
LCA 117 Garway Hill Common	X			X
LCA 118 River Monnow Valley	X			X
LCA 119 St Weonards Wooded Hills & Farmland	X			X
LCA 120 Kynaston Settled Farmland	X			X
LCA 121 Buckholt Woods	X			X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 122 Ganarew Wooded Hills	X			X
LCA 123 Symonds Yat West	X			X
LCA 124 Coppet Hill	X			X
LCA 125 Trellech Grange	X			X
LCA 126 Llangovan Foothills	Excluded from further assessment. Potential effects unlikely to be significant due to limited interaction between the proposed and application development due to wide separation distance and scale of consented developments within the receiving landscape.			
LCA 127 Llangeview	X			X
LCA 128 Southern Usk Valley	X			X
LCA 129 Llandegfedd Reservoir	X			X
LCA 130 Parkland Wye Valley	X			X
LCA 131 Trellech Commons & Forest	X			X
LCA 132 Trellech Plateaux	X			X
LCA 133 Devauden Escarpment	X			X
LCA 134 The Wye Valley	X			X
LCA 135 Coleford, Christchurch & Bricknor Hills	X			X
LCA 136 Ruardean Hills	X			X
LCA 137 Forest of Dean Core	X			X
LCA 138 Tiddenham Chase & St Briavels Common	X			X
LCA 139 Caldicot Levels	X			X
LCA 140 Pilning Levels				X
LCA 141 Avonmouth				X
LCA 142 Portishead	X			X

Landscape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion			
	Limited proportion of LCA with cumulative visibility	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance – no potential for cumulative interaction
LCA 143 Portishead Ridges & Combes	X			X
LCA 144 Clevedon				X
LCA 145 Tickenham Ridges & Combes	X			X
LCA 146 Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands				X
LCA 147 Kingston Saymour & Puxton Moors				X
LCA 148 Middlehope Ridges & Combes				X

## A8.7. RESIDENTIAL VISUAL AMENITY ASSESSMENT (RVAA)

### Introduction

- A8.7.1. This RVAA has been prepared to assess the likely visual effects of the proposed development on residential properties within the 2 km study area. The operational stage of the proposed development will be considered only.
- A8.7.2. RVA means: ‘the overall quality, experience and nature of views and outlook available to occupants of residential properties, including views from gardens and domestic curtilage.’ Residential Visual Amenity is one component of ‘Residential Amenity,’ (LI Technical Guidance Note 2/19).
- A8.7.3. Due to the large number of properties within the study area (approximately 4,300), it was required to group properties together, wherever there is theoretical visibility of the proposed development. This was carried out in order that the assessment could focus on those properties where significant effects on RVA were most likely to occur and ultimately to focus on those properties where it was most likely that the RVA threshold would be reached.
- A8.7.4. The assessment contains four stages as outlined in the methodology, contained within Appendix A8.2.

### Stage 1: Define the Study Area and Identification of Properties and Property Groups to be Assessed

#### Study Area

- A8.7.5. The study area adopted for the RVAA is 2 km from the outermost turbine. This is shown on Figure 8.57: Residential Properties and Settlement Groups Location Plan. The extent of the study area is considered adequate to assess residential visual effects that may have potential to be significant and may have the potential to reach the RVA threshold for visual amenity. Visibility from residential areas beyond 2 km is addressed by the LVIA and is beyond

the scope of the RVAA. This approach complies with LI Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA).

#### Properties/Property Groups to be Assessed

- A8.7.6. Property groups/properties clearly indicated as falling outside the ZTV will receive no change to their respective visual amenity and are excluded from any further consideration within the RVAA.
- A8.7.7. 26 distinct properties/property groups are identified as falling within the ZTV produced for the proposed development. These are shown on Figure 8.57: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment Properties and Settlement Groups. A further desk-based review was carried out to identify properties where likely significant effects would warrant further assessment in stages 2 to 4 and to exclude those where any visibility would be clearly insignificant.
- A8.7.8. The approximate numbers of residential properties within each property group are also indicated in Table A8.55.

Table A8.55: Residential Property Groups

Single property (P)/Property Group (G) Name	Property group numbers (Approx)	Visual characteristics				Included/excluded from further assessment in Stages 2 to 4
		Approximate distance from proposed development (km)	Limited visibility - screening by vegetation	Limited visibility – screening by topography	Limited visibility – screening by built form	
G1 Hilltop	6	1.9	Yes	Yes	No	Excluded
P2 Hilltop Farm	1	1.8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excluded
G3 Griffin Houses	3	1.85	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excluded
G4 Briery Hill	450	1.6 to 2.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excluded
<b>G5 Mill Lane/Lime Avenue</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>G6 Ty Llwyn</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>G7 Garden City</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>G8 Victoria</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>0.7 to 1.0</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>G9 Waun-Lwyd</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>1.0 to 1.3</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>G10 Hall Street</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>G11 Green Street</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
P12 Cwm Boxing Gym	Derelict	1.2	Yes	No	Yes	Excluded
<b>G13 Cwm (lower)</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>1.3 to 2.0</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>

Single property (P)/Property Group (G) Name	Property group numbers (Approx)	Visual characteristics				Included/excluded from further assessment in Stages 2 to 4
		Approximate distance from proposed development (km)	Limited visibility - screening by vegetation	Limited visibility - screening by topography	Limited visibility - screening by built form	
<b>G14 Cwm (upper)</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>1.5 to 1.95</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>P15 Maes yr Onn Fach</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
G16 Pont Gwaithyrhaearn	2	1.9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excluded
G17 Pochin Houses	15	1.7	No	No	No	Excluded
<b>G18 Lower Farm</b>	<b>2 (1 derelict)</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>G19 Bedwellty Pits</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>G20 New Road</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
G21 Troedrhiwgaer	14	0.5	Yes	Yes	No	Excluded
<b>P22 Ton-y-Fedw Farm</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
G23 Larch Lane	285	0.9 to 1.3	Yes	Yes	No	Excluded
<b>G24 Pochin Crescent</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>G25 Vale Terrace</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>1.3 to 2.0</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
<b>Group 26 St James Park</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>1.3 to 1.8</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Included</b>
Group 27 Georgetown	136	1.5 to 2.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excluded

### Stage 2: Baseline Residential Visual Amenity of Properties/Property Groups Taken forward for Assessment

A8.7.9. Residential areas falling within the study area are located predominantly within lower lying areas within the surrounding valleys, with some scattered dwellings in areas of farmland rising up from the valleys.

A8.7.10. The baseline visual characteristics of the properties/property groups selected for assessment are described in Table A8.56.

Table A8.56: Residential Properties/Groups Baseline Description

Single property (P)/Property Group (G) Name	Baseline description
<b>G5 Mill Lane/Lime Avenue</b>	Detached recent two-storey housing, (4 no. properties) located on the junction of Lime Avenue and Mill Lane, on the flat valley floor, formally the site of the ex-steelworks. The properties sit amongst areas of hardstanding, car parking and grassed areas with some roadside formal tree planting. Views from the rear of three of the properties are aligned to the south and one to the north. Views from the front of the properties are aligned to the north, and one to the south. In all cases, where not constrained by foreground buildings or structures, views are across the open and large-scale valley floor landscape to the enclosing valley sides with some foreground interruption from large-scale recent development, including the hospital to the south.
<b>G6 Ty Llwyn</b>	Mainly terraced two-storey Victorian properties arranged along the steeply rising west facing slopes of the Ebbw Valley. Property frontages generally outlook across the valley with some open views across to the east facing slopes and dramatic landform of Y Domen Fawr and Cefn Manmoel beyond. On the valley floor, recent large-scale development, including the hospital and educational buildings are prominent elements in the open valley.
<b>G7 Garden City</b>	Compact arrangement of semi-detached and detached two-storey properties on the steeply sloping and well-vegetated east facing side of the Ebbw Valley. The property group is visually enclosed throughout by garden trees and the surrounding areas of woodland rising up the valley side although some occasional views out across the valley area are available where vegetation allows.
<b>G8 Victoria</b>	Recent detached, semi-detached and terraced two-storey properties set in a series of dispersed irregular clusters amongst the wooded lower Ebbw Valley slopes and valley floor. The group is visually enclosed by the landform of Cefn Manmoel and mature garden vegetation. Some views east and south are available where vegetation allows. To the west, a mix of open and filtered views are available to the open skyline and ridge of Cefn Manmoel.
<b>G9 Waun-Lwyd</b>	Mainly terraced Victorian two-storey properties arranged along the steeply rising west facing slopes of the Ebbw Valley. Property frontages generally outlook across the valley with some open views across to the east facing slopes and distinctive landform of Y Domen Fawr and Cefn Manmoel, where enclosing foreground vegetation allows. Lower sections of this groups, to the

Single property (P)/Property Group (G) Name	Baseline description
	west, are more strongly enclosed by scrub and woodland planting. Vertical man-made elements within view from this property group include pylons and electricity lines.
<b>G10 Hall Street</b>	This group comprises a series of large detached and semi-detached two and three-storey properties scattered on the upper wooded slopes of the Ebbw Valley. Occasional views out, mainly to the east are available although these properties are visually enclosed by the topography of the valley side and woodland.
<b>G11 Green Street</b>	This group comprises four large detached two-storey properties set amongst Festival Park on the valley floor. The visual context is well wooded, with a series of lakes providing a focus. Some views out to the more open valley sides to the east and west are available from the properties.
<b>G13 Cwm (lower)</b>	Mainly terraced Victorian two-storey properties with some semi-detached 1930's properties to the north, arranged along the Ebbw Valley floor. Property frontages generally outlook east or west across the valley to the enclosing valley sides. Some properties are arranged with frontages or rear elevations aligned to the north and south and these contain more extensive views along the valley particularly to the north. Within these views, the dramatic landform of Y Domen Fawr and Cefn Manmoel forms an attractive backdrop. Areas to the south of this group are more enclosed by built form and woodland.
<b>G14 Cwm (upper)</b>	Mixed traditional terraced Victorian two-storey properties with more recent semi-detached two-storey properties rising up the west facing Ebbw valley side and tributary valley of Cwm Merddog. Property frontages generally outlook south or west across the valley to the enclosing valley sides, although this group is generally enclosed strongly by woodland and tree planting. A small section on Emlyn Road has rear elevation views to the north where the enclosing landscape is more open. Within these views, the dramatic landform of Y Domen Fawr and Cefn Manmoel forms an attractive backdrop.
<b>G15 Maes yr Onn Farm</b>	Detached two-storey farmstead located at the head of the Nant-Maes-yr-Onn tributary valley. The property is set amongst agricultural buildings in an open upland setting with sporadic tree planting more to the south. Front and rear elevations are aligned north to south respectively. To the east and to the north the landform rises to provide some enclosure. Views to the south-west down the valley and to the west across the Sirhowy Valley are available from this property. Within views west the operational single turbine wind farms of Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 are string vertical features in the foreground and beyond. Further to the west, further operational turbines are visible including developments at Pen-yr-Heol Farm and at Pen Rhiw Gwaith Farm.
<b>G18 Lower Farm</b>	Detached two-storey detached property, set on the open valley floor of the Sirhowy Valley and fronting the A4048 Newport Road to the west. The garden to the property is sporadically enclosed by tall shrubs and some trees and

Single property (P)/Property Group (G) Name	Baseline description
	woodland extending into the adjacent fields. Beyond this vegetation, the valley side and open skyline of Cefn Manmoel provides a dramatic and attractive backcloth to views. The operational turbines of Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 are visible on the skyline to the east. The group includes a derelict property/former school, this property is excluded from any further consideration in the RVAA.
<b>G19 Bedwellty Pits</b>	Series of traditional two-storey terraces aligned regularly along the lower east facing slopes of the Sirhowy Valley. The properties have small, enclosed rear gardens. Frontages outlook directly across the open valley floor to the east. Within views, the valley side and open skyline of Cefn Manmoel provides a dramatic and attractive backcloth. The operational turbines of Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 are visible on the skyline to the south-east.
<b>G20 New Road</b>	Dispersed grouping of detached and semi-detached houses set back from the A4048 Newport Road. The centre of the group includes some bungalows although the remaining properties are two-storey. All properties possess large front and rear gardens and a strong east facing aspect. Within views, the valley side and open skyline of Cefn Manmoel provides a dramatic and attractive backcloth. The operational turbines of Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 are visible on the skyline to the south-east.
<b>G22 Ton-y-Fedw Farm</b>	Detached single-storey/bungalow positioned on the western edge of the Cefn Manmoel plateau. The property sits amongst agricultural buildings within an open, relatively featureless landscape comprising expanses of upland grass punctuated by occasional stone walls. Some enclosure is provided to the property to the east by the rising topography. The property has a strong aspect to the west with panoramic views extending widely across the Sirhowy Valley and beyond.
<b>G24 Pochin Crescent</b>	Group of traditional two storey terraced properties with some more recent two storey semi-detached and detached properties. All are set within the Sirhowy Valley floor and views are available from the front or rear elevations and gardens north or south along the valley. The steeply sloping valley sides form an attractive backcloth to these views. The operational turbines of Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 are visible on the skyline to the south-east.
<b>G25 Vale Terrace</b>	Extensive group of traditional two-storey terraced properties generally aligned from north to south on the valley floor. The valley sides provide an attractive backcloth to the group, with the well wooded slopes to the east providing a strong sense of enclosure.
<b>Group 26 St James Park</b>	Series of traditional two-storey terraces aligned regularly along the lower facing slopes rising to a low-density development of recent detached two storey properties to the east. The group overall has a strong aspect to the west and north-west with properties generally aligned in this direction with open views across the Sirhowy Valley. Views from the more elevated recent

Single property (P)/Property Group (G) Name	Baseline description
	housing are more variable due to the irregular layout. A number of properties in this section of the group have views aligned more to the south along the valley enclosed by the distinctive landform of Cefn Manmoel. Within these views the operational turbines of Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 are visible on the skyline.

### Stage 3: Assessment of Properties Likely to Experience Significant Effects

- A8.7.11. Properties/property groups identified in Stage 1 as having the potential to experience significant effects as a result of the proposed development are described in the tables; Table A8.57 – A8.73. The Stage 3 assessment included the likely change in terms of magnitude and significance in relation to the group as a whole (or individual property where relevant).
- A8.7.12. Due to the large numbers of properties in some groups, representative individual properties are identified to illustrate the worst-case scenarios with regard to the predicted views of the proposed development from property groups.
- A8.7.13. Where it is possible that effects from the groups or individual property may breach the RVA threshold, a Stage 4 Assessment has been applied, as described. The aim of this is to identify whether the RVA Threshold could potentially be breached.

### Stage 4: Consideration of the Residential Visual Amenity (RVA) Threshold.

- A8.7.14. Representative or Individual properties identified to be taken forward for the Stage 4 assessment were visited and an assessment was made from within the curtilage to identify whether the RVA threshold could reach or exceed the RVA threshold.
- A8.7.15. A description of effects will be provided for properties/property groupings, supplemented with 90° wireline from each of the properties/group of properties to illustrate the view of the proposed development.
- A8.7.16. This concluding judgement advises the decision maker whether the predicted effects on visual amenity and views at the representative property/individual property are such that it has reached the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold, therefore potentially becoming a matter of Residential Amenity. This judgement is explained in narrative setting out why the effects are considered to reach the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold. Equally, judgements explain why the threshold has not been reached.

Table A8.57: Property Group 5 Mill Lane/Lime Avenue

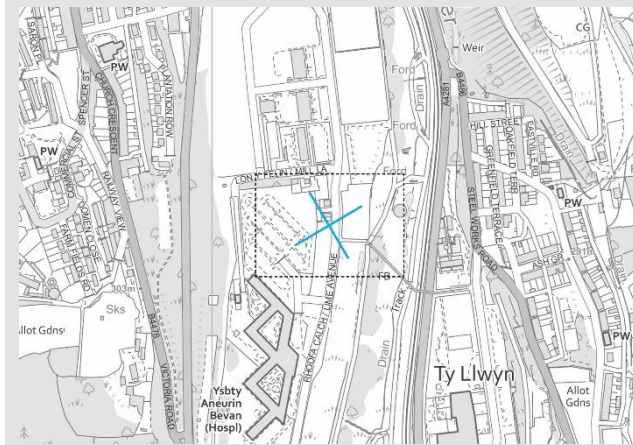
Property Group 5 Mill Lane/Lime Avenue	
Approximate no. of properties in the group.	4
Orientation of views from the property/property group.	Three properties are aligned with the frontages to the north and rear elevations to the south. One property is

Property Group 5 Mill Lane/Lime Avenue	
	aligned with the frontage to the south and rear elevations to the north.
View direction/relative height to proposed development:	The proposed development is aligned to the south and south-west on the ridgeline around 300m above the property/property group.
Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.	1.6 km
Predicted View.	The proposed development is likely to be visible on the skyline to the south and south-west at partial tower height. All five proposed turbines are likely to be viewed as an equally spaced array with no stacking or interaction between the turbine blades.
Magnitude of visual impact.	Views from the properties will be available from ground floor and first floor levels and rear gardens for properties on Mill Lane and the southern property on Lime Avenue. Views south from the northern property on Lime Avenue are obscured at ground floor level by the adjoining property to the south. Some filtering from garden and adjoining roadside tree planting may be anticipated and there are some large-scale built forms, such as the Hospital, within the foreground and middle distance of the views towards the development. Three turbines will be located at a distance greater than 2km from the properties and at this distance the proposed development will be an apparent feature. However, it is likely to occupy a significant proportion of the skyline that will be visible in the open views from the rear elevations and gardens of the properties and is likely to be a visually prominent new feature in the views. The magnitude of impact from this property group will be medium-high.
Significance of effect.	The sensitivity is assessed as high and the magnitude of medium-high. The proposed development would be visually prominent from the property/group of properties, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Therefore, the significance is assessed as medium-high (significant).
Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.	Ty Unnos, Lime Avenue, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6GL

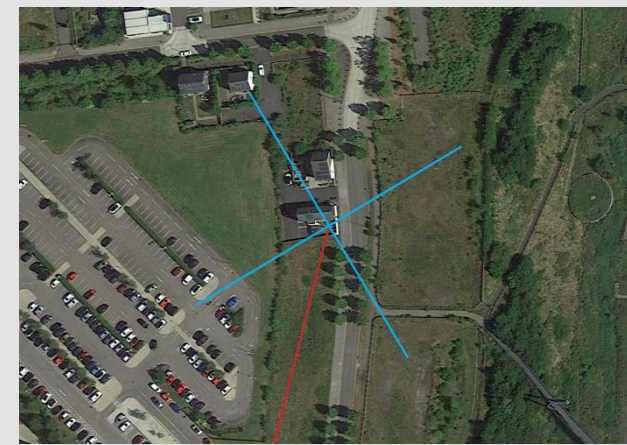
**Property Group 5 Mill Lane/Lime Avenue**

**Ty Unnos, Lime Avenue, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6GL**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Property Description.**

Detached two storey property. Primary views south are from the living room, kitchen and rear garden. Garden boundaries to the rear are enclosed by a garden fence/wall, approximately 2.5 m high.

**Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property are shown in Figures 8.58a – 8.58d.

The proposed turbines will be a prominent feature to the south. The rear garden boundary fence may partially obscure views of the proposed turbines. However, due to distance and the semi-urban nature of the view the proposed development does not form an overwhelming feature in the view.

RVA Threshold Reached: No

Table A8.58: Property Group 6 Ty Llwyn

**Property Group 6 Ty Llwyn**

<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	168
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	Views from the frontages of the majority of properties outlook to the west across the Ebbw Valley. Properties along Hill Street and Ash Grove are aligned east to west rising up the valley side and the frontages and rear elevations outlook to the north and south.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is aligned to the south-west on the ridgeline at a relative height of around 150m above the property group.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	1.8 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline to the south-west at partial tower height. All five turbines are likely to be viewed as an equally spaced array with no stacking or interaction between the turbine blades.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	Views from the properties will be available from ground floor and first floor levels, obliquely and subject to intervening vegetation in the foreground. The proposed development will likely be an apparent feature that is likely to occupy a notable proportion of the skyline that will be visible from the rear elevations and gardens of the properties. Although around three of the turbines will be viewed at distances greater than 2km from most of the group, it is likely that the proposed development will be a visually prominent new feature on the unbroken skyline. The magnitude of impact from this property group will be medium-high.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high and the magnitude of medium-high. The proposed development would be visually prominent from the property/group of properties, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Therefore, the significance is assessed as major-moderate.
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.</b>	30 Eastville Road, Tyllwyn, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6AH
<b>30 Eastville Road, Tyllwyn, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6AH</b>	
Property Location:	Property Context:

**Property Group 6 Ty Llwyn**



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Property Description.** Traditional two storey terrace, with frontages aligned to the west. Primary views will be from ground floor living room to the front of the property. A small garden sits slightly elevated above the adjacent road.

**Threshold.** The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.59a – 8.59d.

The proposed turbines will be an immediately prominent feature, although there will be some foreground screening of views by vegetation. Views of the proposed development will be oblique from the property. In addition, a significant proportion of the skyline that extends across primary views will remain unchanged. At approximately 1.7 km to the nearest turbine, the proposed development will not form an overwhelming feature in the view.

RVA Threshold Reached: No

Table A8.59: Property Group 7 Garden City, Ebbw Vale

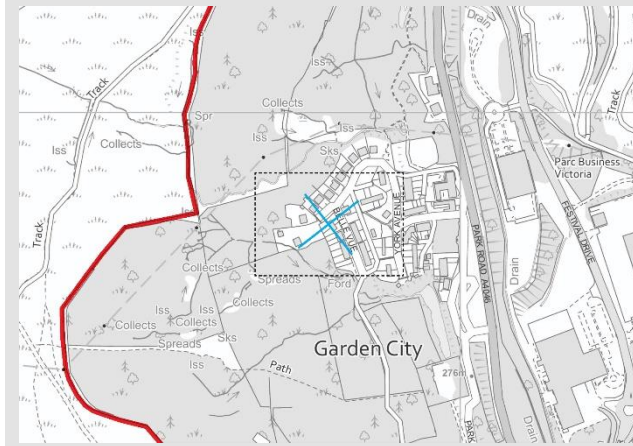
**Property Group 7 Garden City, Ebbw Vale.**

<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	75
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	The predominant aspect from the property group is towards the east and south-east, with frontages or rear facades aligned to take advantage of the views across the valley from this elevated valley side position.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is aligned to the south-west on the ridgeline at a relative height of around 100 to 150m above the property/property group.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	0.65 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline to the south-west at partial tower height. The proposed development is likely to be viewed as an equally spaced array with no stacking or interaction between the turbine blades.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	Views from the properties will be variable throughout the property group. Along Belle Vue and York Avenue to the north it is likely that the proposed development will be visible from ground floor and first floor levels, mainly from the front of the properties and gardens, obliquely and subject to intervening vegetation in the foreground. Elsewhere within the group views to the west and south-west are constrained by topography, vegetation and buildings. The proposed development will likely form a recognisable, or in some cases, a visually prominent new element. However, whilst it is likely to be readily observed from some properties, the overall the quality of views will remain intact. The magnitude is assessed as medium.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high and the magnitude of medium. The proposed development would be visually prominent from some properties, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Therefore, the significance is assessed as medium-high.
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.</b>	14 Belle Vue, Garden City, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8UT

**Property Group 7 Garden City, Ebbw Vale.**

**14 Belle Vue, Garden City, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8UT**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

Semi-detached two storey property with frontages aligned to the east. Primary views are available from the ground floor living room, from windows to the front and rear. The rear garden is enclosed by timber fencing and vegetation.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.60a – 8.60d.

The proposed turbines will be an apparent feature, where screening from vegetation adjacent to the rear garden and also fences/out buildings allow. Views of the proposed development will be highly oblique from the property. The glimpsed view of the proposed development will not form an overwhelming feature in the view.

RVA Threshold Reached: No

Table A8.60: Property Group 8 Victoria

**Property Group 8 Victoria**

<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	280
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	Properties are arranged along the valley floor in an irregular clustered form and views are varied in orientation and range.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is located to the west around 250 m to 300m above the relative height of the property group.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	0.7 km to 1.0 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline to the west. Four turbines (T2, T3, T4 and T5) are likely to be visible at partial tower height and one turbine (T1) visible at hub height. All five turbines will likely be viewed as an equally spaced array rising over the distinctive landform of Y Domen Fawr with no stacking or interaction between the turbine blades.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	Views will be variable throughout the property group due to the irregular layout and also due to the screening effect of woodland vegetation within and immediately around the property group. Where views are available, the proposed development will likely occupy a significant proportion of the views to the west, due to the positioning of the development along the skyline. The scale of the proposed development is likely to be perceived as a dominating new feature due to proximity and the location of the proposed development on the open skyline. The magnitude of impact from this property group will range from high to medium depending on intervening vegetation and property alignment/orientation.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high, and the magnitude will range between high and medium. The proposed development would be visually prominent or dominating in views from some of the property/group of properties, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Therefore, the significance is assessed as ranging between major and major-moderate.
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.</b>	12 The Boulevard, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8BR 24 Augusta Park, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8DN

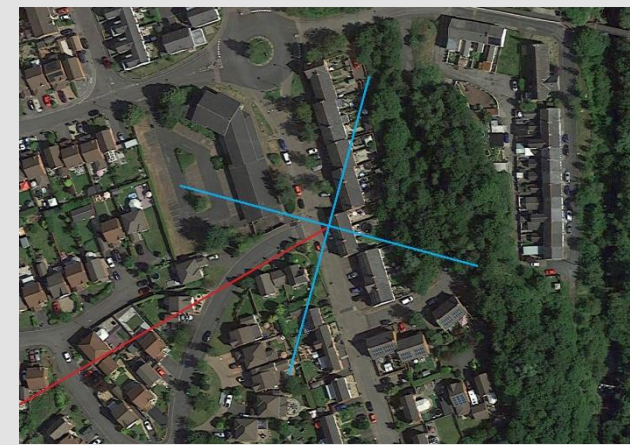
**Property Group 8 Victoria**

**12 The Boulevard, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8BR**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

Modern two storey terrace property with primary views from ground floor living room to the west. Front door open directly on to street.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.61a – 8.61d.

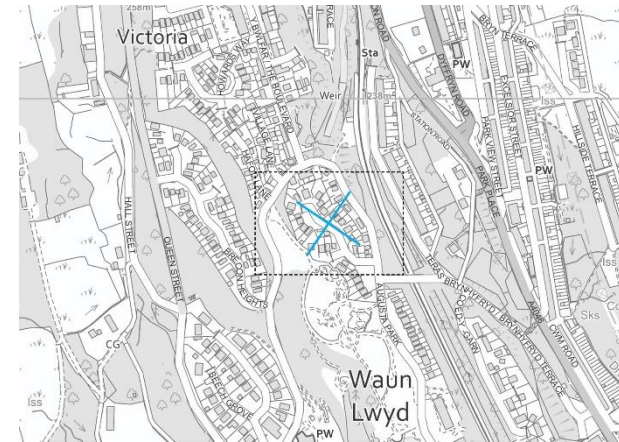
The proposed turbines will form a dominating feature within primary views from the property and occupy a wide proportion of the horizontal view. Given the location of the property within the valley floor and the proximity of the proposed turbines above the property on the adjacent ridgeline, there may be a sense of the proposed turbines forming an overwhelming feature.

RVA Threshold Reached: Yes

**24 Augusta Park, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8DN**

Property Location:

Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 – Property Description.**

Modern, detached two storey property, with driveway to the front. Primary views, to the west is from the property's living room.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.62a – 8.62d.

The proposed turbines will form a dominating feature within primary views from the property and occupy a wide proportion of the horizontal view. Given the location of the property within the valley floor and the proximity of the proposed turbines above the property on the adjacent ridgeline, there may be a sense of the proposed turbines forming an overwhelming feature.

RVA Threshold Reached: Yes

Table A8.61: Property Group 9 Waun-Lwyd

Property Group 9 Waun-Lwyd	
<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	304
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	Views from the frontages of the majority of properties outlook to the west across the Ebbw Valley.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is aligned along the ridgeline to the west at a relative height of around 100 to 150m above the property group.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	1.0 km to 1.3 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline to the west at partial tower height. All five turbines are likely to be viewed as an equally spaced array with no stacking or interaction between the turbine blades.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	Views from the properties will be available from ground floor and first floor levels predominantly from the frontages of the properties. Some intervening vegetation, particularly to sections of the group at lower elevations to the west, filters and screens available views towards the proposed development. The proposed development will likely be an apparent feature that is likely to occupy a notable proportion of the skyline that will be visible. It is likely that the proposed development will be visually prominent on the unbroken skyline to the west. The magnitude of impact from this property group will be high reducing to medium for properties located at lower elevations that benefit from screening from intervening foreground woodland vegetation.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high and the magnitude of high reducing to medium for some properties to the west of the group. Where the magnitude is high, the proposed development will be an immediately apparent feature that will affect and change the overall appearance of the view. The proposed development is likely to be a visually dominant and unavoidable feature from these properties. Elsewhere, where the magnitude is medium, the proposed development will form a recognisable new element from the property/group of properties and will be readily observed without changing the overall nature of the view. The proposed development is likely to be visually prominent and potentially unavoidable, although the overall quality of

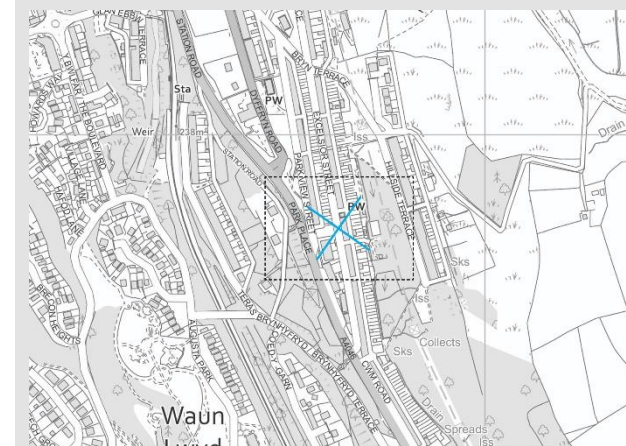
**Property Group 9 Waun-Lwyd**

the view may remain intact. The significance will in the property group will range from major to major-moderate

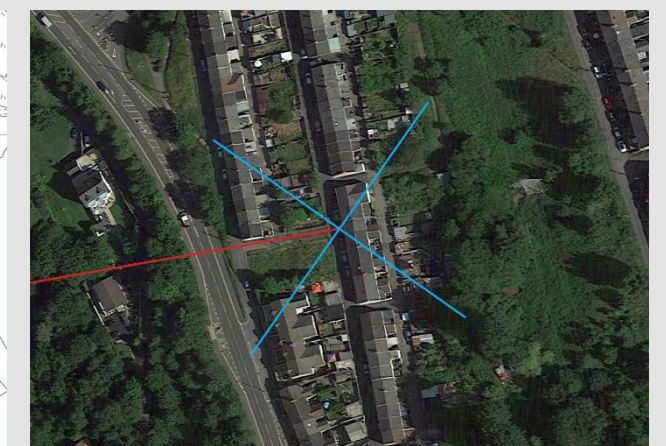
**Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.** 43 Excelsior Street, Waunlwyd, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6TT

**43 Excelsior Street, Waunlwyd, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6TT**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.** Mid terrace, 19<sup>th</sup> century, two storey property, with access directly on to the street. Primary views are west facing, from living room windows.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.** The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.63a – 8.63d.

The proposed turbines will form a very prominent feature within a section of primary views from the property. Within the open, panoramic views available from this property, the proposed development will not form an overwhelming feature, due to distance, scale of receiving landscape and relative elevation of the proposed development to the property.

RVA Threshold Reached: No

Table A8.62: Property Group 10 Hall Street

Property Group 10 Hall Street	
<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	7
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	The predominant aspect from the property group is towards the east, with frontages aligned to take advantage of the views across the valley from this elevated valley side position, where enclosing woodland allows.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is aligned to the west on the ridgeline at a relative height of around 100 to 150m above the property/property group.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	0.5 km to 0.8 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline to the south-west. Turbines T2 to T4 are likely to be visible at partial tower height and T1 at blade tip height. The turbines will likely be viewed as an equally spaced array with no stacking or interaction between the turbine blades.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	Views from the properties will be variable throughout the property group due to the extent of woodland on the adjoining valley side and local topography. Troed Rhiw Clawdd Farm sits within a more open landscape mature hedges and trees. The Croft comprises a large-detached property amongst a clearing in the woodland and it is likely that some views west up to the skyline may be possible. Elsewhere, woodland and local conditions screen the majority of views particularly to the west. Within available views, the proposed development is likely to form a recognisable new element within some views from the property/group of properties and will be readily observed without changing the overall nature of the view. The magnitude is assessed as high for Troed Rhiw Clawdd Farm, medium – low for The Croft and low for the remaining properties within the group.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	Both sensitivity and magnitude is assessed as high for Troed Rhiw Clawdd Farm. From the remaining properties, sensitivity will gain be high, with a magnitude of medium - low for The Croft and low for all other properties. The proposed development will be visually prominent from the property group, subject to local screening by topography and vegetation, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Therefore, the significance is assessed as major from Troed Rhiw Clawdd Farm and

Property Group 10 Hall Street

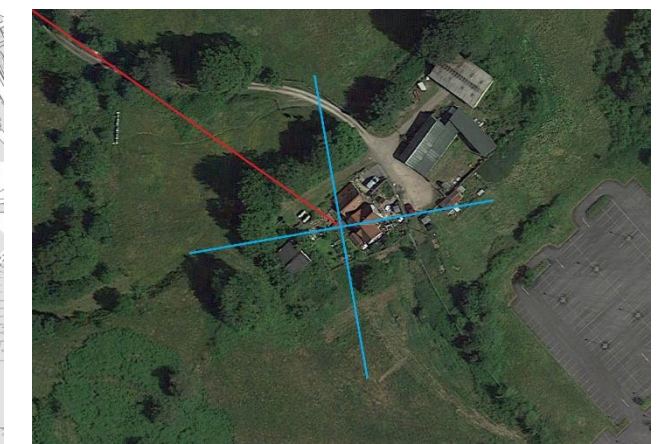
	moderate-major from The Croft and moderate from all other properties.
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.</b>	W1 - Troed Rhiw Clawdd Farm, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8AU W3 -The Croft, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8AU W4 - Bush Inn, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8AU W5 - Woodfield House, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6AT W6 - Maes-y-Parc, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8AU

Troed Rhiw Clawdd Farm, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8AU

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

Stage 4 - Property Description.

Traditional two storey, rendered finished farm house, set into the east facing slopes of the Ebbw Valley. Primary views from the property are to the east

Stage 4 - Threshold.

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.64a – 8.64e.

The proposed development will form a very prominent feature within secondary views from the rear garden of the property. From within the property, primary views are to the east. There are no views from the rear of the property, west towards the proposed development and consequently will not form an overwhelming or dominant feature from within the property itself. The proposed development, due to the turbine's location on the ridgeline above the garden will potentially form an

overwhelming and inescapably dominant feature from these areas and from the approach to the property.  
RVA Threshold Reached: Yes

**The Croft, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8AU**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

Detached three storey, early 20<sup>th</sup> century style house with a detached garage, set within a large well wooded garden, on the east facing slopes of the Ebbw Valley. Primary views are to the east and north east.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.65a – 8.65e.

Due to intervening mature vegetation, topography and the focus of primary views being to the north east and away from the proposed development, it is considered that not it will not form an overwhelming feature.

RVA Threshold Reached: No

**Property Group 10 Hall Street**

**Bush Inn, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8AU**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

Extended two-storey property with a separate holiday let annex and outbuildings. The property outlooks east across the Ebbw Valley and there are limited views west towards the proposed development due to topography and vegetation.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.66a – 8.66e.

From within the property, primary views are to east and consequently will not form an overwhelming or dominant feature from within the property itself. The proposed development will form a dominant feature within secondary views, extending across a wide proportion of the view. This will include view from the grounds and approach to the property. The proposed development, due to the turbine's location on the ridgeline above the grounds will potentially form an inescapably and overwhelming feature, through and above the trees, from these areas and from the approach to the property.  
RVA Threshold Reached: Yes

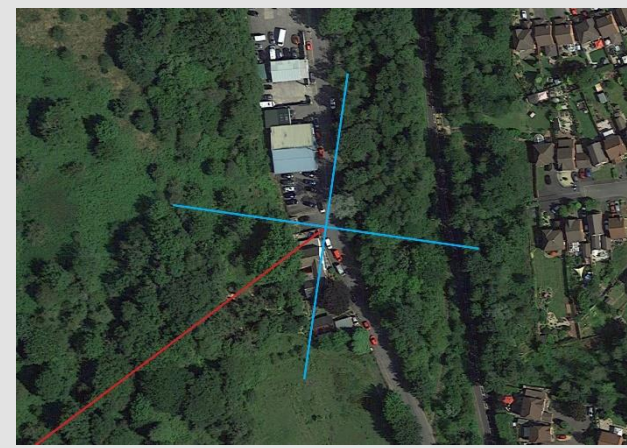
**Property Group 10 Hall Street**

**Woodfield House, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6AT**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

1950's semi-detached two-storey house with rendered finish, set into the east facing slope of the Ebbw Valley. Views are generally from the front of the property with a high degree of enclosure to the rear from the valley side and vegetation.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.67a – 8.67e.

From within the property, primary views are to east and consequently will not form an overwhelming or dominant feature from within the property itself. The proposed development will form a dominant feature within secondary views. This will include view from the rear garden. The proposed development, due to the turbine's location on the ridgeline above the rear garden will potentially form an overwhelming feature, through and above the trees, from the rear garden.

RVA Threshold Reached: Yes

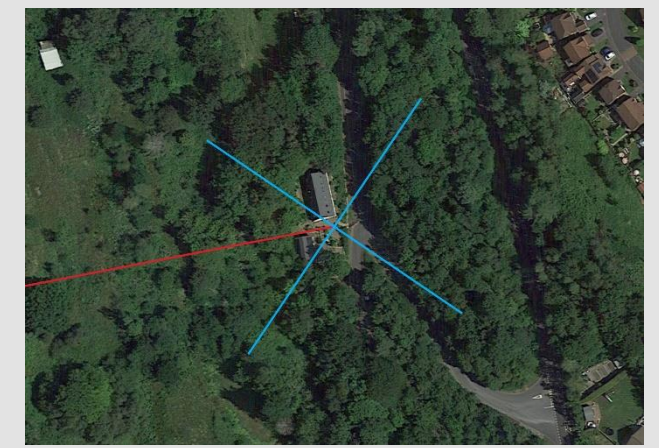
**Property Group 10 Hall Street**

**Maes-y-Parc, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8AU**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 – Property Description.**

Dormer bungalow property with outbuildings. The property generally outlooks east onto Hall Street and there are limited views west towards the proposed development due to topography and vegetation.

**Stage 4 – Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.68a – 8.68e.

Due to intervening mature vegetation, topography and the focus of primary views are more to the east and away from the proposed development, it is considered that the proposed development will not form an overwhelming feature. Some views from the dormer windows will be aligned more vertically to the west although these will be from the bedrooms and are secondary in nature and likely to be experienced at night.

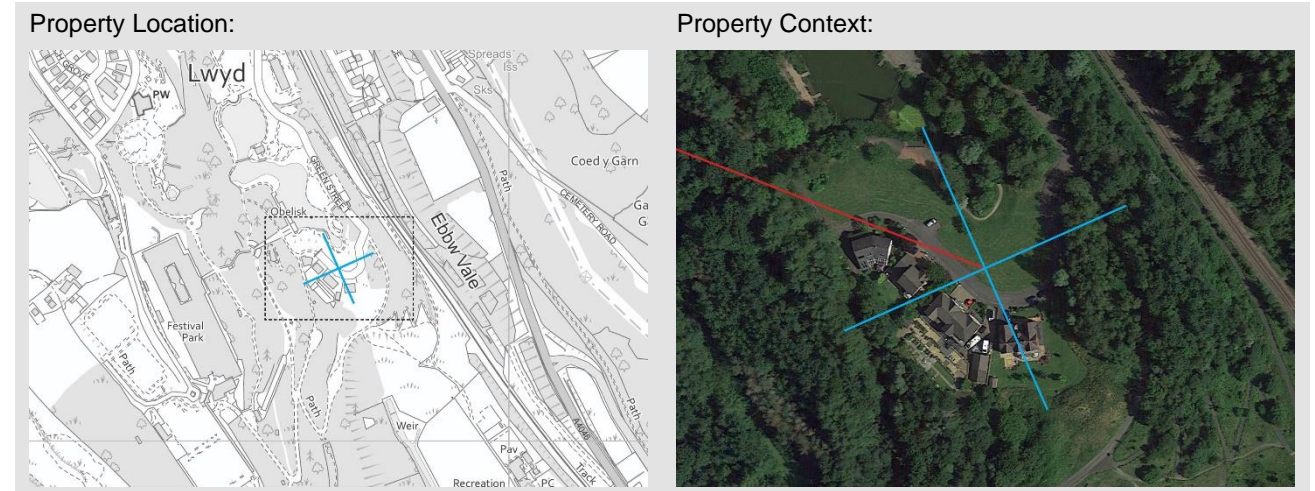
From within the property, primary views are to east and consequently will not form an overwhelming or dominant feature from ground floor rooms. The proposed development will form a dominant feature within secondary views. This will include views from first floor rear rooms and from higher areas of the rear garden. The proposed development, due to the turbine's location on the ridgeline above the rear garden will potentially form an overwhelming feature, through and above the trees, from secondary views.

RVA Threshold Reached: Yes

Table A8.63: Property Group 11 Green Street

Property Group 11 Green Street	
<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	4
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	The predominant aspect from the frontages to the property group is towards the east and north-east. Rear elevations are aligned with an aspect to the west and south-west.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development extends to the west and northwest along the ridgeline at a relative height of around 250 m to 300m above the property/property group.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	0.9 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline, where intervening woodland on the valley side allows, to the west and north-west. Four turbines (T2 to T5) are likely to be visible at partial tower height and one turbine (T1) at hub height.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	Views will be variable throughout the property group due to the screening effect of woodland vegetation on the valley side to the west of the property group. Where views are available, the proposed development will likely occupy a significant proportion of the skyline to the west. The scale of the proposed development is also likely to be perceived as a visually prominent new feature due to proximity. The magnitude of impact from this property group will range from high to medium depending on intervening vegetation and property alignment/orientation.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high, and the magnitude will range from high to medium. The proposed development would be visually prominent from some of the properties, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Therefore, the significance is assessed as medium-high to medium
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.</b>	3 Green Street, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8WR

**Property Group 11 Green Street**  
**3 Green Street, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8WR**



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.  
 Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.** A large, detached modern dwelling set in generous gardens and accessed via a private road/drive. Primary views are considered to be from the front of the property east and north-east across open areas.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.** The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.69a – 8.69d.

Due to intervening mature vegetation to the rear of the property, topography and the focus of primary views being to the north-east and away from the proposed development, it is considered that not it will not form an overwhelming feature.  
 RVA Threshold Reached: No

Table A8.64: Property Group 13

Property Group 13 Cwm (lower)	
<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	642
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	Property frontages generally outlook east or west across the valley to the enclosing valley sides. To the northwest of this property group, (particularly along Elm Street, Ash Street and Carne Street) the outlook is to the north and south.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is aligned to the north-west along the ridgeline at a relative height of around 300 m above the property/property group.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	1.3 km to 2.0 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline extending to the north-west. Four turbines (T2-T5) are likely to be viewed at partial tower height and one turbine (T1) at hub height where intervening woodland on the valley side allows.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	Views from the properties will be variable throughout the property group. From terraced properties aligned southwest/northeast, views to the north-west will be strongly oblique. To the west of the property group, the wooded valley side will screen some views north/north-west. However, properties to the northwest of this property group, (particularly along Elm Street, Ash Street and Carne Street) will be aligned to receive views of the proposed development more directly. The scale of the proposed development is likely to be perceived as a visually prominent new feature due to the proximity and position on the skyline. The magnitude of impact from this property group will range from medium-high to medium-low depending on intervening vegetation/topography and property alignment/orientation.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high, and the magnitude will range from medium-high to medium-low. The proposed development would be visually prominent from some of properties within a small part of the property group, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Therefore, the significance is assessed as ranging between medium-high to medium-low.
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.</b>	2 Elm Street, Cwm, Ebbw Vale, NP23 7RG

**Property Group 13 Cwm (lower)**  
**2 Elm Street, Cwm, Ebbw Vale, NP23 7RG**



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.  
 Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.** Mid terrace, 19th century, two-storey property, with access directly on to the street via a small front yard. Primary views are south facing, (away from the development), from living room windows. The rear garden and kitchen are likely to experience some views north to the proposed development subject intervening garden structures and outbuildings, although these will be secondary in nature.

**Stage 4 – Threshold.** The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.70a – 8.70d. There will be no change to the primary views south from the property. To north, the proposed development will form a prominent new feature on the skyline within secondary views. However, the perceived scale of the turbines and the limited extent of the towers visible above the skyline will result in them not being overbearing due to the primarily to the intervening distance and topography.  
 RVA Threshold Reached: No

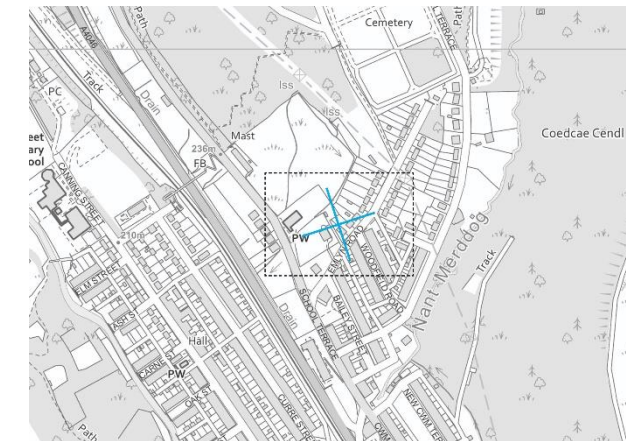
Table A8.65: Property Group 14 Cwm (upper)

Property Group 14 Cwm (upper)	
<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	218
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	Traditional terraced properties rising up the west facing valley side are aligned north to south and views are therefore strongly orientated to the east or west. Due to the slope, the aspect is more pronounced across the valley to the enclosing east facing valley side. To the north of the property group, along Emlyn Road, the rear elevations of some south facing more recent properties will outlook north up the Ebbw Valley.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is located to the northwest along the ridgeline at a relative height of around 250 m above the property group.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	1.5 km to 1.95 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline extending to the north-west. The turbines are likely to be viewed at partial tower height where intervening foreground vegetation allows. Some minor interaction/stacking may be notable for T1 and T2.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	Views will be variable throughout the property group. From terraced properties aligned southeast/northwest, views to the north-west will be strongly oblique. To the north of the property group, along Emlyn Road, the rear elevations of some south facing properties will outlook north up the Ebbw Valley. Woodland vegetation, however, restricts these views to small number of properties. The scale of the proposed development is likely to be perceived as a visually prominent new feature due to the proximity and position on the skyline. The magnitude of impact from this property group will range from medium-high to medium-low depending on intervening vegetation and property alignment/orientation.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high, and the magnitude will range from medium-high to medium-low. The proposed development would be visually prominent from some of properties within a small part of the property group, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Therefore, the significance is assessed as ranging between medium-high to medium-low.

Property Group 14 Cwm (upper)	
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.</b>	7 Emlyn Road, Cwm, Ebbw Vale, NP23 7RZ

**7 Emlyn Road, Cwm, Ebbw Vale, NP23 7RZ**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

Mid-20th century, two-storey semi-detached property, with generous front and rear gardens. Primary views are likely to be north-facing from living room windows to the rear. The rear garden and kitchen are also likely to experience some views north to the proposed development. All views to the north, however, are subject to intervening garden structures and outbuildings.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.71a – 8.71d. Within views to the north, the proposed development will form a prominent new feature on the skyline within primary views. However, intervening garden and scrub woodland to the rear of the property is likely to filter and screen some visibility. In addition to this, the perceived scale of the turbines and the limited extent of the towers where visible above the skyline will result in them not being overbearing due to the primarily to the intervening distance and topography.

RVA Threshold Reached: No

Table A8.66: Property Group 15 Maes yr Onn Farm

Property Group 15 Maes yr Onn Farm	
<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	1
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	Front and rear elevations are aligned to the north and to the south. The aspect from the property curtilage/garden is strongly aligned to the west/south-west.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is located to the north at relative height of around 50 m above the property.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	0.7 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible as a tight cluster extending along the skyline to the north. All five turbines are likely to be viewed at partial tower height. Due to the orientation of the proposed development stacking between the turbines is likely notable for T2, T3 and T4.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	Panoramic views north to the elevated land along Cefn Manmoel will be available from the front of this property and the adjoining garden curtilage. The proposed development would be experienced at close distance within these views and would likely form a recognisable new element across the nearby ridgeline. The turbines will be stacked behind each other, occupying a relatively narrow proportion of the view due to their relative alignment. Operational wind farms at Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2, around to the west with a generous separation distance to the proposed development, are a feature of the landscape. However, the proposed development is likely to be perceived as a distinct and visually prominent feature due to its proximity, scale and position on the skyline. The magnitude of impact from this property group will be high.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high, and the magnitude will be high. The proposed development would be an immediately apparent feature that will affect and change the overall appearance of the view and to which other existing features will become subordinate. The proposed development is likely to be a visually dominant and unavoidable feature from the property/group of properties.
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.</b>	Maes yr Onn Farm, Manmoel Road, Manmoel, Blackwood, NP12 0GD

**Property Group 15 Maes yr Onn Farm**

**Maes yr Onn Farm, Manmoel Road, Manmoel, Blackwood, NP12 0GD**

**Property Location:**



**Property Context:**



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

Detached, renovated, two-storey farmstead property with outbuildings set below the ridgeline to the west. The property is within an open landscape of pasture fields and moorland. Primary views are available from the front of the dwelling, comprising a conservatory/living room.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.72a – 8.72d. Within views to the north, turbines T4 and T5 will be dominating features within a limited horizontal degree of the overall view. T1 to T3 will be seen receding beyond the skyline to the north and will be a prominent but not overbearing group. T4 and T5, however, due to proximity and perceived scale, will likely be seen as inescapably dominating structures and will be sufficiently separated from the operational development so that they will be distinct feature within primary views.

RVA Threshold Reached: Yes

Table A8.67: Property Group 18 Lowe Farm

Property Group 18 Lower Farm	
Approximate no. of properties in the group.	1
Orientation of views from the property/property group.	The rear elevation of the property is aligned to face east. The frontage of the property is aligned to the west, set back from the A4048 Newport Road.
View direction/relative height to proposed development:	The proposed development is located to the east extending along the skyline to the north-east at a relative height of around 280 m above the property.
Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.	1.4 km
Predicted View.	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline to the east and north-east. Four proposed turbines are likely to be viewed at partial tower height and one at hub height. The proposed development will likely form an equally spaced array along the skyline with no stacking or interaction between the turbine blades.
Magnitude of visual impact.	Views from the property will be available from rear ground floor and first floor levels. Some intervening garden vegetation filters and screens available views east towards the proposed development. The proposed development will likely be an apparent feature that is likely to occupy a significant proportion of the skyline visible. It is likely that the proposed development will be visually prominent on the unbroken skyline to the east. The magnitude of impact from this property group will be high.
Significance of effect.	The sensitivity is assessed as high, and the magnitude is high. The proposed development will be an immediately apparent feature that will affect and change the overall appearance of the view. The proposed development is likely to be a visually dominant and unavoidable feature from the property/group of properties. The significance will be high.
Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.	Lower Farm, Newport Road, Tredegar, NP22 4BR

**Property Group 18 Lower Farm**  
**Lower Farm, Newport Road, Tredegar, NP22 4BR**



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.  
 Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.** Traditional two storey farmstead, with frontage aligned to the west. Primary views will be from ground floor living room to the rear of the property, with some screening by garden vegetation.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.** The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.73a – 8.73d. The proposed turbines will form a very prominent feature within primary views east from the property. Within the open views available from this property, the proposed development will not form an overwhelming feature, due to distance and intervening topography screening the lower tower sections.  
 RVA Threshold Reached: No

Table A8.68: Property Group 19 Bedwellty Pits

Property Group 19 Bedwellty Pits	
Approximate no. of properties in the group.	34
Orientation of views from the property/property group.	The front elevations of the properties are aligned to face east. The terraced properties access directly onto the street.
View direction/relative height to proposed development:	The proposed development is located to the east extending along the skyline to the north-east at a relative height of around 280 m above the property.
Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.	1.2 km
Predicted View.	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline to the east and northeast. Four proposed turbines are likely to be viewed at partial tower height and one at hub height. The proposed development will likely form an equally spaced array along the skyline with no stacking or interaction between the turbine blades.
Magnitude of visual impact.	Views from the properties will be available from front ground floor and first floor levels. To the east of the property group, the valley is open and views to the enclosing valley side and skyline form an attractive backcloth. The proposed development will likely be an apparent feature that is likely to occupy a significant proportion of the skyline visible. It is likely that the proposed development will be visually prominent on the unbroken skyline to the east. The magnitude of impact from this property group will be high.
Significance of effect.	The sensitivity is assessed as high, and the magnitude is high. The proposed development will be an immediately apparent feature that will affect and change the overall appearance of the view. The proposed development is likely to be a visually dominant and unavoidable feature from the property/group of properties. The significance will be high.
Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4.	18 Bedwellty Pits, Tredegar, NP22 4BW

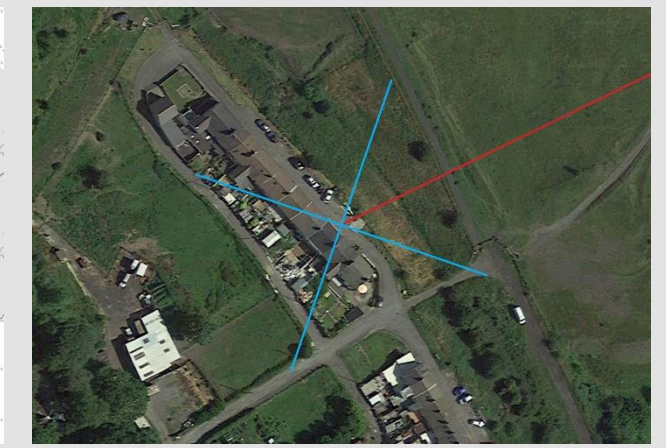
Property Group 19 Bedwellty Pits

18 Bedwellty Pits, Tredegar, NP22 4BW

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

Stage 4 - Property Description.

Traditional two storey terraced property, with frontage directly accessed from the street aligned to the west. Primary views will be from ground floor living room to the front of the property across an open valley setting

Stage 4 - Threshold.

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.74a – 8.74d. The proposed turbines will form a very prominent feature within primary views east from the property. Due to distance and the rolling topography of Cefn Manmoel screening the lower tower sections the proposed development does not form an overwhelming or dominant feature.

RVA Threshold Reached: No

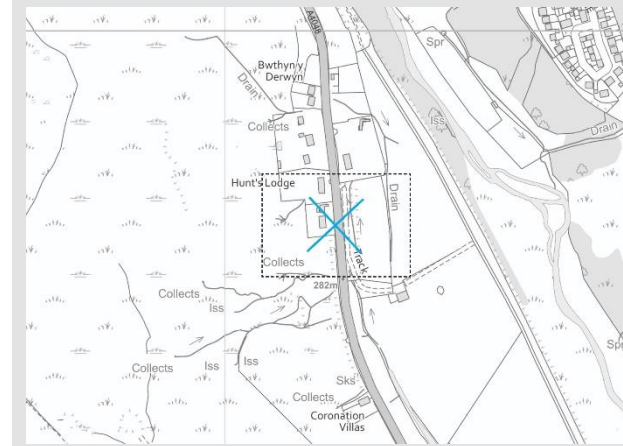
Table A8.69: Property Group 20 New Road

Property Group 20 New Road	
<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	10
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	The front elevations and gardens of the properties are aligned to face east.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is located to the east extending along the skyline at relative height of around 280 m above the property.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	1.4 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline to the east. All five proposed turbines are likely to be viewed at partial tower height. The proposed development will likely form an equally spaced array along the skyline with no stacking or interaction between the turbine blades.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	Views from the properties will be available from front ground floor and first floor levels (where present). Some intervening garden vegetation filters and screens available views east towards the proposed development, in properties to the north of the group. The proposed development will likely be an apparent feature that is likely to occupy a significant proportion of the skyline visible. It is likely that the proposed development will be visually prominent on the unbroken skyline to the east. The magnitude of impact from this property group will be high to medium high.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high, and the magnitude is high to medium high. The proposed development will be an immediately apparent feature that will affect and change the overall appearance of the view. The proposed development is likely to be a visually prominent. The significance will be high to medium-high.
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4</b>	Ty Golwg Mynydd, Tredegar, NP22 4BN

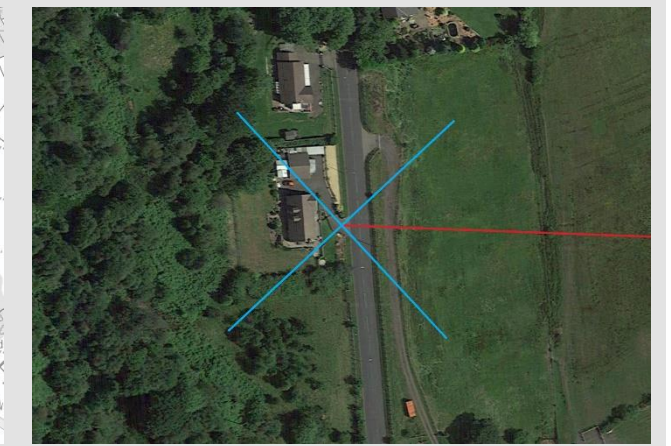
**Property Group 20 New Road**

**Ty Golwg Mynydd, Tredegar, NP22 4BN**

**Property Location:**



**Property Context:**



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

Detached bungalow set back from the road with a generous front and rear garden and outbuildings. Primary views east are available from the living room across the open valley and towards the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.75a – 8.75d. The proposed turbines will form a very prominent feature within primary views east from the property. Due to distance and the rolling topography of Cefn Manmoel screening the lower tower sections the proposed development does not form an overwhelming or dominant feature. RVA Threshold Reached: No

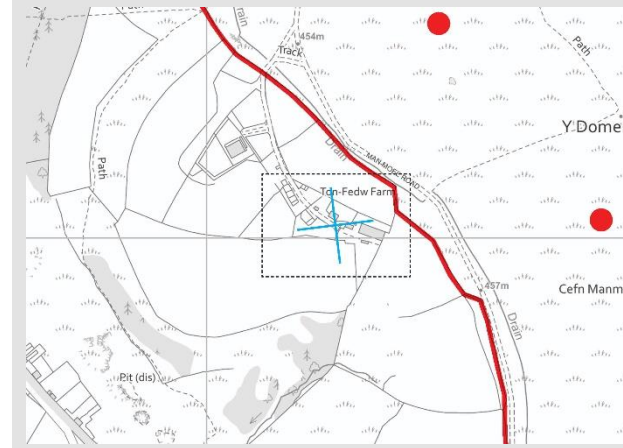
Table A8.70: Property Group 22 Ton-y-Fedw Farm

Property 22 Ton-y-Fedw Farm	
Approximate no. of properties in the group.	1
Orientation of views from the property/property group.	Front and rear elevations are aligned to the west and to the east. The aspect from the property curtilage/garden is strongly aligned to the west/south-west across the Sirhowy Valley.
View direction/relative height to proposed development:	The proposed development is located to the east at relative height of around 30 m above the property.
Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.	0.35 km
Predicted View.	The proposed development will likely be visible as an array extending along the skyline to the east of the property, with some stacking evident between T4 and T5. All five turbines are likely to be viewed at partial tower height.
Magnitude of visual impact.	Open wide views will be available across Cefn Manmoel from the property and the adjoining garden curtilage. The proposed development would be experienced at close distance within views east and south and would likely form a dominating new element across the nearby ridgeline, due to proximity and the perceived scale of the development. Although some stacking between T4 and T5 may be evident the proposed development likely presents as an equally spaced array along the skyline. Although the presence of operational wind farms is a feature of this elevated landscape, the scale of the proposed development is likely to be perceived as a visually dominant due to its proximity to the property, scale and position on the skyline. The magnitude of impact from this property group will be high.
Significance of effect.	The sensitivity is assessed as high, and the magnitude will be high. The proposed development would be an immediately apparent feature that will affect and change the overall appearance of the view and to which other existing features will become subordinate. The proposed development is likely to be a visually dominant and unavoidable feature from the property/group of properties.
Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4	Ton-y-Fedw Farm, Manmoel Road, Tredegar, NP22 4NJ

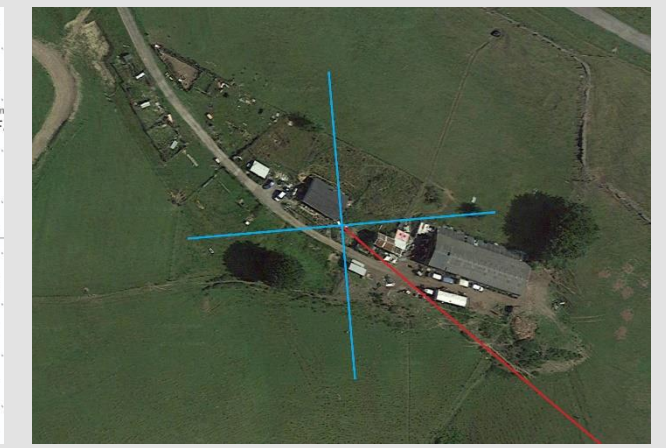
**Property 22 Ton-y-Fedw Farm**

**Ton-y-Fedw Farm, Manmoel Road, Tredegar, NP22 4NJ**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

Detached bungalow set below the ridgeline in an elevated position overlooking the Sirhowy Valley to the west. Scattered around the property are a series of outbuildings, structures and sporadic trees. Primary views from the living room to the east are available.

**Stage 4 - Threshold**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.76a – 8.76d. Within the largely open views available, the proposed development will form an overwhelming and inescapably dominant feature from within property and surrounding land due to the proximity and scale/extent of the turbines visible. The turbines will extend across a wide proportion of the view.  
RVA Threshold Reached: Yes

Table A8.71: Property Group 24 Pochin Crescent

Property Group 24 Pochin Crescent	
<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	12
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	All properties are aligned east to west with views orientated along the valley north or south from either the frontage or rear elevation.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is aligned to the east and south-east on the ridgeline around 250 m above the property group.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	1.35 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline to the east and south-east at partial tower height. All five proposed turbines are likely to be viewed as an equally spaced array with no stacking or interaction between the turbine blades.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	Views from the properties will be available from ground floor and first floor levels and gardens from the rear of properties to the south of Pochin Crescent and the frontage of those properties to the north. The proposed development will likely be a prominent new feature occupying a significant proportion of the skyline above the steeply sloping valley sides that form an attractive backcloth to these views east and south-east. The development will add to the influence of windfarm development provided by the operational turbines of Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 further to the south-east. The magnitude of impact from this property group will be medium-high.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high and the magnitude of medium-high. The proposed development would be visually prominent from the property/group of properties, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Therefore, the significance is assessed as medium-high.
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4</b>	Sunny Bank, Pochin Crescent, Tredegar, NP22 4JP

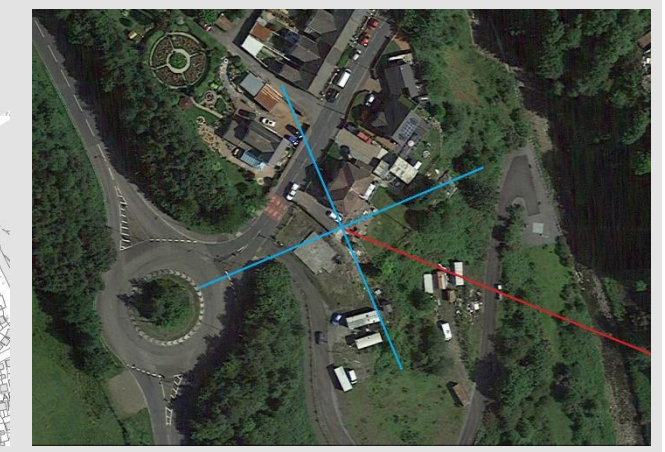
**Property Group 24 Pochin Crescent**

**Sunny Bank, Pochin Crescent, Tredegar, NP22 4JP**

**Property Location:**



**Property Context:**



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

Semi-detached 1930's property set back from the road with a front and rear garden. Primary views south along the Sirhowy Valley are available from the living room and towards the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.77a – 8.77d. The proposed turbines will form a prominent feature within primary views south-east from the property along the open ridgeline. The most prominent turbine (T1) will be visible obliquely within the primary view. The remaining four turbines will be visible at partial tower height only, due to topography. The proposed development will not extend across a wide proportion of the overall view available and will not form an overwhelming feature.

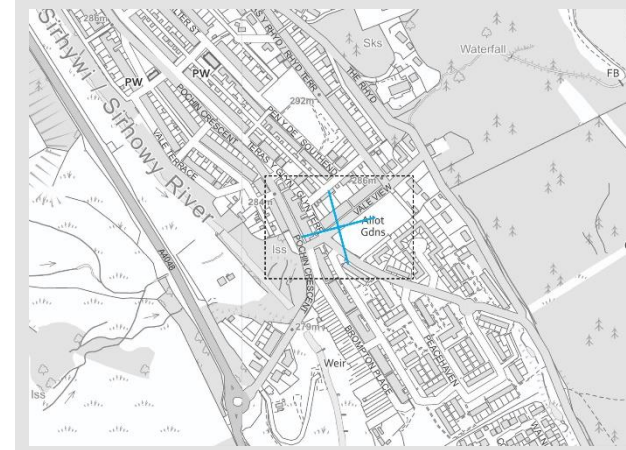
RVA Threshold Reached: No

Table A8.72: Property Group 25 Vale Terrace

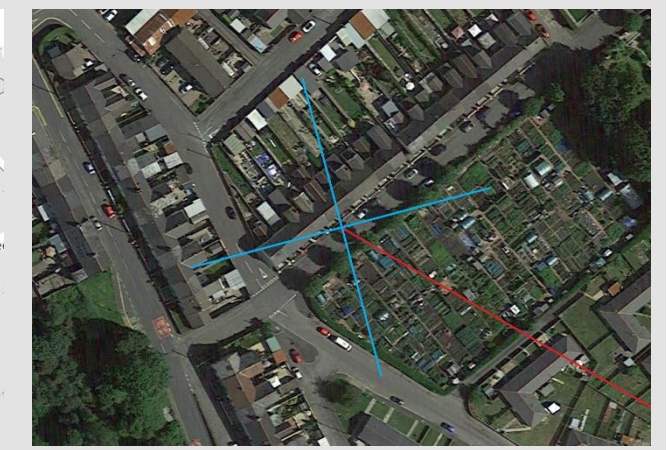
Property Group 25 Vale Terrace	
<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	523
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	The majority of properties are aligned north to south with views orientated across the valley to the east or west from either the frontage or rear elevation.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is aligned to the south-east on the ridgeline around 250 m above the property group.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	1.3 km to 1.8 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline to the south east at partial tower height with T3,T4 and T5 receding beyond the skyline to hub or even blade tip height. All five proposed turbines are likely to be viewed as an equally spaced array with no stacking or interaction between the turbine blades.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	From properties along Vale View to the south of the group, views south and south-east will be available from ground floor and first floor levels and front gardens. Within these views, the proposed development will likely be a prominent new feature occupying a significant proportion of the skyline above the steeply sloping wooded valley sides that form an attractive backcloth. The development will add to the influence of windfarm development provided by the operational turbines of Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 further to the south-east. The magnitude of impact from these properties will be medium-high. Elsewhere, traditional terraces are aligned to the north and south with views to the east and west. Views of the proposed development will be strongly obliques and the magnitude of impact from these properties will be low.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high and the magnitude of medium-high for properties on Vale View. The proposed development would be visually prominent and may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Therefore, the significance is assessed as medium-high. Elsewhere in the group, where the magnitude is assessed as low, the significance will be medium low.
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4</b>	5 Vale View, Tredegar, NP22 4ND

**Property Group 25 Vale Terrace  
5 Vale View, Tredegar, NP22 4ND**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

Traditional 19<sup>th</sup> century terraced property accessed off the road via a small garden. The property frontage is aligned to the south and primary views from the living room are available towards the proposed development. Roadside tree planting provides some filtering and screening of views.

**Stage 4 - Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.78a – 8.78d.  
The proposed development will form a prominent feature within primary views and slightly obliquely to the south-east from the property on the distinctive wooded landform of Y Domen. This forms an attractive backcloth to this dispersed estate. However, turbines T3 to T5 will be largely screened by topography and to a lesser extent woodland along the intervening ridgeline. T1 and T2 will be the most prominent of the turbines and be seen at partial tower height on the relative high point but due to distance, scale and the overall proportion of the development visible, (i.e. 2no turbines only) they will not be overwhelming.  
RVA Threshold Reached: No

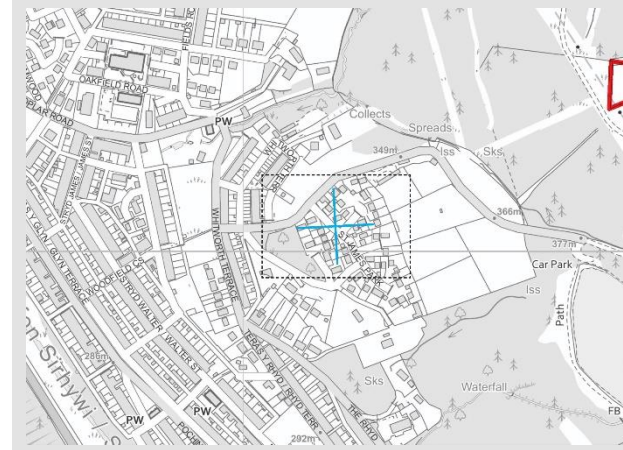
Table A8.73: Property Group 26 St. James Park

Property Group 26 St James Park	
<b>Approximate no. of properties in the group.</b>	187
<b>Orientation of views from the property/property group.</b>	The traditional terraces on the lower valley side to the west of the group are aligned north to south with views orientated across the valley to the west and north-west generally from the front elevation. From the more recent housing on the more elevated land to the west, view orientation is variable, but some properties aligned with views south along the valley.
<b>View direction/relative height to proposed development:</b>	The proposed development is aligned to the south-east on the ridgeline around 170 m above the property group.
<b>Distance to the nearest proposed turbine.</b>	1.3 km to 1.8 km
<b>Predicted View.</b>	The proposed development will likely be visible on the skyline to the at partial tower height for T1 and T2, with T3,T4 and T5 receding beyond the skyline to hub or even blade tip height.
<b>Magnitude of visual impact.</b>	From some properties along St James Park to the west of the group, views south and south-east will be available from ground floor and first floor levels and front gardens. Other properties within this section of the group may possess similar views from side or rear elevations depending on local alignment. Within these views, the proposed development will likely be a prominent new feature occupying a significant proportion of the skyline above the sloping wooded ridgeline that form an attractive backcloth to views south. The development will add to the influence of windfarm development provided by the operational turbines of Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 visible further to the south-east. The magnitude of impact from these properties will be medium-high. Elsewhere, traditional terraces are aligned with views to the west and north-west. Views of the proposed development will be strongly obliques and the magnitude of impact from these properties will be low.
<b>Significance of effect.</b>	The sensitivity is assessed as high and the magnitude of medium-high for some properties within recent housing to the east of the group. The proposed development would be visually prominent and may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Therefore, the significance is assessed as medium-high. Elsewhere in the group, where the magnitude is assessed as low, the significance will be medium low.
<b>Representative Property to be taken forward to Stage 4</b>	3 St James Park, Tredegar, NP22 4NH

**Property Group 26 St James Park**

**3 St James Park, Tredegar, NP22 4NH**

Property Location:



Property Context:



Blue lines indicate the 90° fields of view as shown on the wireline figures.

Red line indicates direction towards the centre of the proposed development.

**Stage 4 - Property Description.**

Recent detached property with a large front and rear garden. Primary views south towards the Sirhowy Valley are available from the living room and towards the proposed development on the distinctive landform of Cefn Manmoel.

**Stage 4 – Threshold.**

The predicted view from this property is shown in Figures 8.79a – 8.79d.

The proposed development will form a prominent feature within primary views south-east from the property on the distinctive wooded landform of Y Domen. This forms an attractive backcloth to this dispersed estate. However, turbines T4 and T5 will be largely screened by topography and to a lesser extent woodland along the ridgeline. Intervening plantation forestry will likely screen the remaining towers. On balance the proposed development will not be overwhelming due to distance and screening.

RVA Threshold Reached: No

## A8.8. AVIATION LIGHTING ASSESSMENT

### Introduction

A8.8.1. This night time assessment accompanies the 'day time' LVIA and has been prepared in response to the NRW and BBNP scoping requests. This assessment examines the potential landscape and visual effects of the aviation lighting.

### Description of the Proposed Turbine Lighting

A8.8.2. The proposed turbines would have 2000 candela lights on the nacelles of Turbines 1, 3 and 5, with mid-tower lighting omitted<sup>1</sup>.

### Methodology

A8.8.3. This night time assessment has been prepared with reference to current recommended guidelines notably the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA) published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment in 2013.<sup>2</sup> The GLVIA relies on an appreciation of the existing landscape, a thorough understanding of the development proposals, evaluation of the magnitude of impact predicted to result from the proposed development, the sensitivity of the existing landscape receptor or visual receptor to change and the potential to mitigate effects.

A8.8.4. Both the NRW and BBNP have requested a night time assessment through the scoping process.

A8.8.5. NRW have recently commissioned a report on Dark Skies in Wales which has been referred to in this assessment.<sup>3</sup> The Tranquillity & Place – Dark Skies map was commissioned in 2020 to study light pollution across Wales. An interactive map was produced to show the relative levels of light pollution across the country. It categorises the level of radiance (light) shining up into the night sky into 8 bands - where 1 is the lowest light pollution and 8 is the highest. The Core Zone of the Brecon Beacons National Park International Dark Skies Reserve and the Critical Buffer Zone lie to the northwest of the proposed development and in the western portion of the National Park. The whole of the National Park is also a Buffer Zone for the Dark Skies Reserve which has restrictions on new artificial light sources.

A8.8.6. It is important to highlight that this night time assessment is not a technical lighting impact assessment based on quantitative measurement of light levels but relies on professional judgement of what the human eye can reasonably perceive at the viewpoints / receptor locations.

A8.8.7. This night time assessment has been prepared according to current limited guidelines on night time landscape and visual assessment. The night time assessment follows a similar methodology used for the assessment of landscape, visual and cumulative effects. It is conducted during periods of dawn to dusk and assesses the baseline night-time environment against the proposed additional, artificial lighting, in this case aviation warning lights, fitted to the proposed turbines.

A8.8.8. Each viewpoint includes a description of the night time baseline and then a commentary on the effect of the proposed scheme on the night time landscape character and view.

A8.8.9. The process involved:

- The preparation of night time photographs showing night time views and existing sources of lighting in the landscape;
- Analysis of maps on existing levels of illuminance / light pollution;
- Site visits to establish existing levels of illuminance at night;
- The preparation of the baseline night time environment - existing sources of lighting in the landscape / view; and
- The assessment of the night time environment - the predicted change in lighting as a result of the proposed scheme. The study area for the night time assessment is also the same as the LVIA study area used for the landscape, visual and cumulative assessment.

A8.8.10. As with the landscape and visual assessment, the sensitivity of the receptor to the proposed development (aviation warning lights) and the magnitude of impact are combined to determine the level of effect likely to result from the aviation warning lights. It should not be assumed that the sensitivity of a receptor during the daytime is the same during the night time nor that the magnitude of the proposed development is similar, and each have to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The evaluation of significance and the nature of these effects is also described following the methodology used for the assessment of landscape, visual and cumulative effects.

### Potential Effects on Landscape Character – Night Time

A8.8.11. The key characteristics of the landscape character areas which lie in the area surrounding the site are set out in the day time landscape character assessments. However, a consideration of the potential for effects on landscape character during the low-light period requires an understanding not just of those characteristics which are apparent during the daylight, but also the degree to which artificial light sources are present in the landscape during low-light conditions.

A8.8.12. Effects on landscape character during the operational phase of the proposed development would predominantly occur from locations within and immediately surrounding the proposed development. Therefore, the LCA that the proposed turbines reside in have been considered as part of this night time assessment. Due to the nature of the effects of the aviation lighting in relation to the scale of the LCAs, other LCAs would have a less than significant effect and have not been individually re-assessed for the night time assessment.

### LCA 01: Mynydd Manmoel

#### Landscape Value

A8.8.13. The landscape value is medium-high as this is a landscape of local importance. This upland area was once evidently the focus of mining and quarrying. The central part of the LCA, comprising the spine of Cefn Manmoel. The historic value of Cefn Manmoel is noted, with evidence of prehistoric to post-modern human activity.

#### Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

A8.8.14. The greater part of this LCA lies within land identified at national level for wind energy development – FWPA for wind energy 10. This landscape is defined by upland qualities and the influence of past and present industry and urban fringe. There is a lack of coherence and the perceptual presence of human development within the landscape setting strengthened by the presence of man-made vertical elements, including the operational wind turbines at Cruglwyn and at Cruglwyn 2. This dynamic contrast of expansive upland providing a backdrop to the

<sup>1</sup> Chapter 14 Aviation and Existing Infrastructure Assessment

<sup>2</sup> Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition, Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment (2013).

<sup>3</sup> Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales, (2021). Available from <https://luc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1cd6ba8a1d7d4a62aff635cfcba4aec> [Accessed 28/02/2022]

heavily developed valleys is typical of the wider South Wales valleys landscape. Landscape pattern is somewhat varied although the ridge is characterised by simple, sweeping lines with expansive open views.

A8.8.15. The Susceptibility to change at night time would be medium to low.

*Landscape Sensitivity*

A8.8.16. Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium to low. Landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium - low.

*Magnitude of Landscape Impacts*

A8.8.17. The night time character would be slightly changed with the addition of the aviation lighting on the proposed turbines. Within the context of this LCA and large upland hill, the presence of the visible aviation lighting would bring about a slight change during the low-light period. The change from the existing landscape character which was primarily characterised by its absence of visible artificial light on the hill would be to a landscape where artificial light (i.e. the lit turbines) appears. The resulting magnitude of landscape impact would be medium, as the change would occur in a notable area.

*Significance of Landscape Effects*

A8.8.18. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed to be moderate (not significant).

**Summary of Operational Stage Effects on Landscape Character – Night Time**

A8.8.19. Table A8.74 summarises the assessment of effects on landscape character from each of the 35 LCAs identified for assessment.

Table A8.74 : Summary of Operational Stage Effects on Landscape Character – Night Time

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance
01 Mynydd Manmoel	Medium	Medium	Moderate (not significant)

**Potential Effects on Visual Amenity**

*Night Time Assessment*

A8.8.20. The night time assessment of the potential effects on visual amenity examines the potential visual receptors that may see the aviation lighting at night time.

A8.8.21. The following key viewpoints were chosen to correlate with the day time LVIA viewpoints. These five viewpoints are the nearest to the proposed turbines and provide a good spread of geographical areas, including the BBNP.

*Viewpoint 2: Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)*

*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 01: Mynydd Manmoel;
- Cefn Manmoel SLA; and
- Viewpoint is located on Sirhowy Valley Walk.

*Value of the Landscape Receptor*

A8.8.22. This viewpoint resides in a recognised landscape value within a designated SLA, along a regional walking route. The value of the landscape receptor is therefore medium.

*Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales*

A8.8.23. This viewpoint is situated in an area in band 4 on the radiance scale and it is not in a Dark Sky designation and lies approximately 4.1 km south of the BBNP International Dark Skies Reserve. Although the viewpoint is in an elevated position and offers views over a wide area and with open views to the sky, there is a relatively high level of light pollution from urban areas in the valley below and views of the night sky would be affected.

*Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptors*

A8.8.24. Visual receptors may include recreational users on the Sirhowy Valley Walk and road users. The recreational users are more susceptible to change, and road users are less likely to notice the view at night. The recreational users are judged to be of medium susceptibility to change and road users would be low susceptibility to change.

*Value of the View*

A8.8.25. The value of this view is regionally important and appreciated by recreational users, which is medium.

*Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptors*

A8.8.26. The recreational users are considered to be of medium susceptibility to change, and the viewpoint is located within an area of medium value by virtue of the landscape designation. The resulting sensitivity to change is assessed medium for recreational users and low for road users.

*Existing View Description*

A8.8.27. The viewpoint in Figures 1.1-1.3 (Aviation Lighting Assessment supporting figures, Volume 2 of the ES) shows a 90-degree panoramic view facing south towards the proposed wind turbines, however, the primary direction of view from this viewpoint is to the north and east across a wide, panoramic view over the urban area in the valley bottom with the southern slopes of the BBNP rising up above the valley to the north and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn to the east.

A8.8.28. At night, the view across the valley to the north and east is dominated by the static artificial lighting associated with the urban area, including street lighting, residential lighting (particularly light emanating from windows and also domestic outdoor lighting) and commercial/industrial lighting, most notably the Rassau Industrial Estate to the north. Near to the viewpoint, to the east, is the residential area of Hilltop with its streetlighting and light from the individual houses. There are mobile artificial light sources from vehicles travelling along the road, mostly car headlights, with some cars stopping in the lay-by area adjacent to the viewpoint. In the direction of the proposed development, there are no sources of artificial lighting as the view is of open moorland landscape. The communications masts which are a dominant feature in the view during the day diminish to silhouettes during dusk and have no lighting.

*Predicted View*

A8.8.29. The effect at night time of the proposed wind turbines is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 3 (Aviation Lighting Assessment supporting figures, Volume 2 of the ES). The wireline indicates that the proposed development would be visible on the skyline to the south arranged in a tight cluster. Three of the five turbines would be visible at hub height and two at blade tip height.

A8.8.30. The aviation warning lights would appear as two points of red light on Turbines 1 and 3 with the hub of Turbine 5 hidden below the horizon and not seen. The two lights would be seen at different heights above the dark horizon and would be seen close together in relation to the wide view. This lighting would be a new static light source in the view in the direction of the proposed development.

#### *Magnitude of Visual Impact*

A8.8.31. The proposed turbines would be viewed at close distance and would form a recognisable new element across the nearby ridgeline. However, the turbines would be stacked behind each other, occupying a narrow proportion of the view due to their alignment.

A8.8.32. The existing skyline includes the neighbouring communications towers, which would appear higher than the proposed turbines.

A8.8.33. The magnitude of visual impact as a result of the introduction of the aviation warning lighting is assessed as medium.

#### *Significance of Visual Effect*

A8.8.34. The significance of effects is considered to be moderate (not significant) for recreational users and moderate – minor for road users (not significant).

#### *Viewpoint 3: Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale*

#### *Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 09: Ebbw Vale, Waun-Llwyn, Cwm.

#### *Value of Landscape Receptor*

A8.8.35. This area is not within a landscape designation nor of any noted cultural or historical value.

#### *Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales*

A8.8.36. This viewpoint is situated in an area in band 5 on the radiance scale and it is not in a Dark Sky designation and lies approximately 4.1 km south of the BBNP International Dark Skies Reserve. This viewpoint is within a residential area with street lighting and other sources of light pollution which affect views of the night sky.

#### *Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor*

A8.8.37. Visual receptors are likely to include both users of the road network and local residents. Road users are likely to be of lower susceptibility to change as they move through the landscape; whilst residential receptors are of higher susceptibility as they are static and at home, albeit within an urban area where receptors may be more able to accommodate change due to the range and nature of urban elements within views, including vertical elements such as light columns and telecoms masts/pylons. On balance, susceptibility to change is considered to be medium-high.

A8.8.38. Residents from the terraced houses on the eastern valley side and with views facing west across the valley. The area to the east of Eastville Road here is grassed and therefore may be used by recreational visual receptors. Dog-walkers might be a typical recreational receptor as they may be out during the longer nights in winter.

A8.8.39. Residential receptors at night are likely to be less focused on views from windows, with typical night time activities differing from during the day (e.g. resting indoors with the curtains closed). This reduces the susceptibility of residential visual receptors at night when compared to their susceptibility in the day time. Similarly, recreational

receptors in this location are less likely to be looking at the wider views than during the day with their focus typically on their more immediate surroundings.

A8.8.40. The residential and recreational users are judged to be of medium susceptibility to change and road users would be low susceptibility to change.

#### *Value of the View*

A8.8.41. This viewpoint is not of recognised value by virtue of designation; neither is the viewpoint of any noted cultural or historical value. Therefore, the value of the view is medium.

#### *Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor*

A8.8.42. Visual Receptors (residents and recreational users) are considered to be of medium susceptibility to change with a medium value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium. Whereas road users would have a low susceptibility to change, and sensitivity would be medium – low.

#### *Existing View Description*

A8.8.43. Looking southwest from Eastville Road, this view faces directly towards Cefn Manmoel enclosing the valley at medium distance. The lower slopes are wooded below Y Domen Fawr, reducing to heath scrub on higher slopes, where some disused workings are also notable. Terraced properties on Eastville Road frame the view, with residential development also present within the middle ground of the view at Garden City and Briery Hill. Large-scale buildings are partially visible at Aneurin Bevan Hospital above foreground vegetation.

A8.8.44. The viewpoint is taken just off Eastville Road and faces southeast across the valley towards the proposed wind turbines. The wider view stretches around to the north and forms a panorama across the valley. From this viewpoint, the night time view over the valley to the north contains more artificial lighting than the view to the south (as in the viewpoint photograph).

Static artificial light sources in the foreground of the view are the streetlights along Eastville Road and also lights emanating from house windows and any outdoor lights on houses, these lights illuminate the area of grass as seen in Figures 2.1 and 2.3 (Aviation Lighting Assessment supporting figures, Volume 2 of the ES). The majority of the static light sources in the view come from the valley bottom in the mid-ground of the view, with the mostly dark hillside rising up above them in the east. These light sources form a patchwork of lit areas in the view and consist mostly of highway lighting along the A4046 as well as residential streetlights, lights from residential properties, outdoor lighting at commercial/industrial buildings, the Aneurin Bevan Hospital and Pen y Cwm School. The lighting of the residential area of Garden City is noticeable on the eastern (opposite) valley side.

A8.8.45. Mobile light sources include car headlight and taillights travelling along the A4046 and Lime Avenue in front of the Hospital. In the summer months, the foliage on the trees and scrub in the foreground of the view would screen views of many of the lights in the valley bottom.

#### *Predicted View*

A8.8.46. The effect at night time of the proposed wind turbines is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 (Aviation Lighting Assessment supporting figures, Volume 2 of the ES). All five of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint and therefore all three of the aviation warning lights would be visible. They would appear as three points of red light above the dark and prominent horizon on the far side of the valley. Due to the height of the turbines above the horizon, the lights would appear separate from the horizon line although they would roughly follow its contours. Further to this, the separation between the lights in the valley

bottom and on the hillside and the proposed aviation warning lights would mean that the proposed red lights would form a new lighting element in the view.

A8.8.47. The proposed aviation lighting would punctuate the skyline darkness and would appear in balance with the bright lights in the valley bottom, framing the view of the dark hillside.

#### *Magnitude of Visual Impact*

A8.8.48. The magnitude of visual impact would be medium, forming a recognisable new element within the overall view at night time.

#### *Significance of Visual Effect*

A8.8.49. The significance of effects is judged to be moderate (not significant) for residents and recreational users and moderate – minor (not significant) for road users.

#### *Viewpoint 7: Cwm Tysswg, Junction with B4256*

##### *Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 12 Mynydd Bedwellty; and
- Boundary of Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides SLA.

##### *Value of Landscape Receptor*

A8.8.50. The landscape receptor has a medium value within a landscape of recognised value, a designated SLA.

##### *Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales*

A8.8.51. This viewpoint is situated in an area in band 4 on the radiance scale and it is not in a Dark Sky designation and lies approximately 5.5 km south of the BBNP International Dark Skies Reserve. Although the viewpoint is in an elevated position and offers views across the valley, there is a relatively high level of light pollution spilling upwards from the urban area below and from the dwellings behind the viewpoint which would affect views of the night sky. Areas of lower light pollution are close-by to the west and south of the viewpoint.

##### *Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor*

A8.8.52. Visual receptors are likely to include both users of the road network, particularly the B4256 at the junction and on the minor road to Abertysswg and neighbouring residents. Road users are likely to be of lower susceptibility to change as they move through the landscape; whilst residential receptors are of higher susceptibility as they are static and at home.

A8.8.53. Residential receptors at night are likely to be less focused on views from windows, with typical night time activities differing from during the day (e.g. resting indoors with the curtains closed). This reduces the susceptibility to change of the residential receptor at night when compared to their susceptibility in the day time.

A8.8.54. Road users susceptibility at night would be similar to their day time susceptibility as the focus of the user is typically on the immediate road in the direction of travel. The day time awareness of wider views of the landscape when driving would be less obvious at night.

A8.8.55. Road users susceptibility to change would be low and residents susceptibility to change is medium.

##### *Value of the View*

A8.8.56. Residents are a key receptor from this location, and it is within a landscape of recognised value as it lies within a designated SLA. The value of visual receptors is therefore medium.

##### *Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor*

A8.8.57. Residents would be medium susceptibility to change, and the value of view is medium value, their sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium. Road users would be low susceptibility to change, and their sensitivity would be low.

##### *Existing View Description*

A8.8.58. The view faces east from the minor road to Abertysswg just off the B4256. There are three dwellings facing in the same direction as the viewpoint. The view looks over the Sirhowy Valley and the south end of the town of Tredegar in the valley bottom. The ridge of Cefn Manmoel, where the proposed wind turbines would be located, rises on the far side of the Sirhowy Valley and the northern slopes of Mynydd Bedwellte can be seen to the right (south) of the photograph. To the north, the view extends towards the BBNP overlooking the urban area of the Heads of the Valley corridor. The silhouette of the two existing turbines at Cruglwyn can be seen to the south – these do not have aviation lighting.

A8.8.59. The static artificial lighting in the view is mostly associated with the town in the valley bottom. The area is mostly residential with streetlights as well as light emanating from house windows and external domestic lighting. There are also transient mobile light sources from cars travelling along the roads in the valley bottom. Light also emanates from the dwellings behind the viewpoint.

A8.8.60. It is mostly dark and wooded on the western slopes of Cefn Manmoel except for a bright external light associated with a farm on the upper slopes of the hill near its highest point (in the direction of the proposed wind turbines). Also, a streak of light can be seen which shows that occasional car headlights may be seen along the road high on the hillside.

##### *Predicted View*

A8.8.61. The effect at night time of the proposed wind turbines is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 (Aviation Lighting Assessment supporting figures, Volume 2 of the ES). The dark silhouette of the proposed turbines would be visible above the horizon of Cefn Manmoel. At hub height on three of the five proposed turbines, the aviation lighting would be seen as three points of red light, evenly spaced above the dark line of the horizon. The lights would pierce the darkness of the upper valley with the only existing artificial light source being the farm light on the hillside below the proposed turbines.

##### *Magnitude of Visual Impact*

A8.8.62. The magnitude of visual impact would be medium with this view at a medium distance.

##### *Significance of Visual Effect*

A8.8.63. The sensitivity of residents is medium; therefore, the significance of effects is judged to be moderate (not significant). For road users, the significance of effects is judged to be moderate – minor (not significant).

#### *Viewpoint 11: B4560 (Brecon Beacons National Park)*

##### *Landscape Character Area and Designations:*

- LCA 28: Mynydd Oedd, Llangatwg and Llangynidyr;

- BBNP; and
- International Dark Skies Reserve.

#### *Value of the Landscape Receptor*

A8.8.64. This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within the BBNP and within the International Dark Skies Reserve. The value of the landscape receptor is therefore high.

#### *Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales*

A8.8.65. This viewpoint is situated in an area in band 2 on the radiance scale and is located within the Brecon Beacons International Dark Skies Reserve.<sup>4</sup> The viewpoint location is close to the southern park boundary and as can be seen on Figures 4.1- 4.3 (Aviation Lighting Assessment supporting figures, Volume 2 of the ES), it overlooks the populated Ebbw Vale. Any visitor coming here to view the Dark Skies would more likely head further north, away from the light pollution of the towns, which as seen on the Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales map is a darker sky area.

#### *Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptors*

A8.8.66. Receptors are typically road users within the BBNP and recreational users of the Open Access Land (CRoW Act). Road users are likely to be either travelling through this area and would therefore have wider views and dynamic views and their susceptibility would be low. Recreational users in this area on informal paths would be more susceptible and are more likely to be focussed on landscape setting. The susceptibility of a recreational receptor at this viewpoint therefore remains high, as it is during the daytime. However, it should be noted that this area within the national park would not likely be the place where a recreational user looking specifically for a dark sky would visit, especially with the existing light from the towns in the valleys below.

A8.8.67. The recreational users are considered to be of high susceptibility to change and road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to change.

#### *Value of the View*

A8.8.68. This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within the BBNP and International Dark Skies Reserve. The value of the view is therefore high. This viewpoint lies outside of the Core Zone and Critical Buffer Zones of the dark sky reserve but lies within the general Buffer Zone which covers the whole of the National Park. Therefore, the value of the view is high.

#### *Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptors*

A8.8.69. The recreational users are judged to have a high susceptibility to change, and the view is of high value and resulting in a high sensitivity.

A8.8.70. The road users are judged to have a low susceptibility to change, and the view is of high value and resulting in a medium sensitivity.

#### *Existing View Description*

A8.8.71. The view faces south, from just off a lay-by, in an open moorland landscape. The view looks over an area of moorland and plantation to the lights of the town of Ebbw Vale and Tredegar which lie at the heads of the valleys. The unique contrast between the relatively undeveloped hills and the developed valley bottoms can be seen in the

view. The view is panoramic and the open, gently sloping aspect of the land offers great views of the large, wide sky.

A8.8.72. The boundary of the National Park, and therefore the Dark Sky Reserve Buffer Zone lies approximately 1 km to the south, and the nearest sources of static artificial lighting begin approximately 1.7 km south of this viewpoint. This results in the area being naturally dark. The sources of static artificial lighting from the urban area are from highway lighting, streetlights, domestic, commercial and industrial buildings.

A8.8.73. Mobile sources of artificial lighting are present closer to the viewpoint with car headlights being the main source on the B460 which passes the viewpoint to the east and also from the Heads of the Valley Road (A465) which lies approximately 1.6 km to the south.

#### *Predicted View*

A8.8.74. The effect at night time of the proposed wind turbines is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 (Aviation Lighting Assessment supporting figures, Volume 2 of the ES). The wireline indicates that the proposed development would be visible on the skyline to the south with all five turbines visible at partial tower height.

A8.8.75. At night time, the addition of the aviation lighting would appear as three points of red light, evenly spaced and at a consistent height above the horizon. From this viewpoint, the proposed lighting would sit within the horizontal envelope of artificial lighting of the urban area in the valley bottoms and would be an incremental source of lighting. Although these new points of red light would be a new addition in the view above the horizon, (i.e. no other lighting is currently seen above the horizon) in the context of the wider view from this open moorland, they lie low on the horizon and do not encroach far into the big, dark skies overhead.

#### *Magnitude of Visual Impact*

A8.8.76. The proposed wind turbines would form a recognisable new element within the overall view and seen on a clear night. Although readily observed on the skyline, the turbines would occupy a narrow proportion of the view, seen at a distance. The large scale, open nature of the view containing a simple palette of elements would likely accommodate the turbines without loss of overall visual quality. The turbines would sit alongside other existing turbines and vertical structures within the view. The aviation lighting would be within the existing visual envelope with other existing lighting in the valley. As the proposed wind turbines are relatively low (i.e. close to the horizon and therefore the valley) they would be in context with the wider, panoramic view and the large sky.

A8.8.77. The magnitude of visual impact as a result of the introduction of the proposed aviation lighting would be medium-low.

#### *Significance of Visual Effect*

A8.8.78. For recreational users, the sensitivity is high and with the magnitude of visual impact is medium - low. The significance of visual effect is judged to be moderate (not significant).

A8.8.79. For road users, the sensitivity is medium and with the magnitude of visual impact is medium - low. The significance of visual effect is therefore assessed as moderate - minor (not significant).

#### *Viewpoint 12: Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Bargoed)*

#### *Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 16: Gelligaer Common/ West of Rhymney;

<sup>4</sup> International Dark-Sky Association. Available from <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/reserves/breconbeacons/> [Accessed 28/02/2023]

- Gelligaer Common SLA;
- Gelli-gaer Common LOHI; and
- Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath.

*Value of Landscape Receptor*

A8.8.80. This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within a designated SLA and LOHI. The value of the landscape receptor is medium.

*Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales*

A8.8.81. This viewpoint is situated in an area in band 2 on the radiance scale and it is not in a Dark Sky designation and lies approximately 12.4 km south of the BBNP International Dark Skies Reserve. The level of light pollution is low and so there are good views of the night sky from this viewpoint despite there being views of the lights of urban areas.

*Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor*

A8.8.82. Visual receptors include recreational users on the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath, who may have a higher susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape. Receptors also include people travelling through the landscape using roads, although the extent to which their attention is focussed on visual amenity is generally limited. Road users are less likely to be present for the appreciation of landscape or visual value.

A8.8.83. The recreational users are considered to be of medium - high susceptibility to change and road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to change.

*Value of the View*

A8.8.84. This viewpoint resides in an area recognised with landscape value within a designated SLA and LOHI. The value of the view is therefore medium.

*Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor*

A8.8.85. Recreational Users are considered to be of medium - high susceptibility to change and the viewpoint is located within an area of medium value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium - high. Road users have a low susceptibility with a medium value of view, resulting in a medium – low sensitivity.

*Existing View Description*

A8.8.86. The view looks to the northeast from a layby (parking for the cross at Capel Gwladys) along the minor road west of Bargoed. The view looks over gently undulating moorland with the more open aspect of the view around to the right (east) with views over the valley and the town of Aberbargoed.

A8.8.87. Sources of static artificial lighting are mostly at a distance from the viewpoint, and are associated with the town of Aberbargoed, including lighting from streetlights and residential properties. There are mobile sources of light from the A4049 road, seen in the far middle ground of the photograph.

A8.8.88. The view to the north, in the direction of the proposed turbines, remains dark and unlit. There are existing turbines within the view, the silhouettes of which can be made out at night; however, they do not have aviation lighting.

*Predicted View*

A8.8.89. The proposed aviation lighting would appear as three points of red light. The lights would be evenly spaced and would appear low above the horizon (lower than the hub heights of other existing turbines in the view – although these are not tall enough to need aviation lighting).

A8.8.90. The three lights would appear detached from the existing sources of light in the valley to the east and would be a noticeable change in the view in this direction.

*Magnitude of Visual Impact*

A8.8.91. The proposed wind turbines would form a component of the wider view that might be missed by the casual observer. The large scale, open nature of the view containing a simple set of elements would likely accommodate the proposed turbines alongside other existing wind turbines and vertical structures within the view. The magnitude of visual impact is assessed as medium - low.

*Significance of Visual Effect*

A8.8.92. Significance of visual effect is assessed as moderate (not significant) for recreational users and moderate – minor (not significant) for road users.

*Summary of Operational Stage Effects on Visual Amenity – Night Time*

A8.8.93. The potential visual effects at night time have been assessed and the findings show that of the five representative viewpoints assessed, none were considered to have significant impacts at night time as a result of the proposed wind turbines.

A8.8.94. The effects found were considered moderate adverse at most.

A8.8.95. The aviation lighting introduced by the proposed wind turbines would be very unlikely to result in a change from 'Intrinsic Rural Darkness and Buffer' to the 'Transitional' zone for the area covers the site itself and therefore, impacts of the proposed wind turbines would be very unlikely to result in a change to the 'Dark Skies Core' which mostly makes up the levels of brightness found within the BBNP dark skies reserve.

A8.8.96. Table A8.75 summarises the assessment of effects on visual amenity from each of the five viewpoints.

Table A8.75: Summary of effects on visual amenity

Viewpoint Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
2 Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)	Medium (residents) Low (road users)	Medium	Moderate (not significant, recreational users) Moderate – minor (not significant, road users)
3 Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale	Medium (residents and recreational users) Medium - low (road users)	Medium	Moderate (not significant, recreational users) Moderate – minor (not significant, road users)

Viewpoint Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
7 Cwm Tysswg, Junction with B4256	Medium (residents) Low (road users)	Medium	Moderate (not significant, recreational users) Moderate – minor (not significant, road users)
11 B4560 (Brecon Beacons National Park)	High (recreational users) Medium (road users)	Medium - low	Moderate (not significant, recreational users) Moderate – minor (not significant, road users)
12 Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Bargoed)	Medium – high (recreational users) Medium - low (road users)	Medium - low	Moderate (not significant, recreational users) Moderate – minor (not significant, road users)

## Cumulative Effects

### Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character

#### Consented Wind Farm Developments

A8.8.97. The effects on landscape character have been assessed in the previous section and there would be no further effects on the landscape character.

#### Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity

##### Existing and Application Stage Wind Farm Developments

A8.8.98. The cumulative effects on visual amenity as a result of the proposed wind turbines and baseline wind turbines, in addition to the application wind farm/single turbines within the 45 km study area are assessed.

##### Viewpoint 2: Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)

###### Predicted View

A8.8.99. The proposed development would form a cumulative effect with existing and proposed wind turbines in the view and the 360-degree panoramic view from the viewpoint. In this instance, as the existing and proposed cumulative turbines are below the 150 m height threshold for aviation warning lighting, there are no cumulative lighting effects as a result of the proposed development.

##### Viewpoint 3: Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale

###### Predicted View

A8.8.100. Any cumulative effect of the proposed wind turbines with existing wind turbines would only be within the 360-degree panoramic view. Views of other turbines to the north would likely be screened by built form and vegetation

from this viewpoint and any existing and proposed cumulative turbines are also below the 150 m height threshold for aviation warning lighting, there are no cumulative lighting effects as a result of the proposed development.

##### Viewpoint 7: Cwm Tysswg, junction with B4256

###### Predicted View

A8.8.101. Any cumulative effect with existing and proposed wind turbines in the view would be in the 360-degree panoramic view. The upper tips of some of the proposed turbines at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn might be visible beyond the crest of Cefn Manmoel from this viewpoint, however the hubs of the turbines would not be visible and so their proposed aviation lighting would not be seen. Therefore, as the other cumulative turbines in the view would be below the 150m threshold for aviation warning lighting, there would be no cumulative lighting effects as a result of the proposed development.

A8.8.102. No other cumulative turbines in the view have or would have visible aviation lighting, therefore there would be no cumulative effect as a result of the aviation lighting on the proposed wind turbines.

##### Viewpoint 11: B4560 (Brecon Beacons National Park)

###### Predicted View

A8.8.103. There may be cumulative visual effects with existing and proposed wind turbines in the view and the 360-degree panoramic view from this location. However, in this existing view, there are no turbines or tall elements which have aviation lighting. Therefore, the addition of the proposed aviation lighting would have no cumulative effect.

A8.8.104. In the existing view, there are no turbines or tall elements which have aviation lighting. Therefore, the addition of the proposed aviation lighting would have no cumulative effect.

A8.8.105. There are proposed windfarm wind developments at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn y Cefn, which would be visible from this viewpoint and would require aviation warning lighting. As a result of the aviation lighting on the proposed development there would be a cumulative effect with these two wind farms. Although the proposed development lies closer to the viewpoint than the other proposed windfarms, the proposed lighting would appear similar to those other developments and as there are fewer proposed turbines, there would be fewer aviation warning lights. The effect of the proposed lighting would be the extension of the portion of the horizontal view in which red points of light would be seen just above the horizon.

###### Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impact

A8.8.106. Considering the proposed windfarm wind development at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, the cumulative visual impact as a result of the proposed aviation lighting would be considered medium - low.

###### Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

A8.8.107. For recreational users, the sensitivity is high and with the magnitude of visual impact is medium - low. The significance of visual effect is judged to be moderate (not significant).

A8.8.108. For road users, the sensitivity is medium and with the magnitude of visual impact is medium - low. The significance of visual effect is therefore assessed as moderate (not significant).

##### Viewpoint 12: Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Bargoed)

###### Predicted View

A8.8.109. In the existing view, there are no existing turbines with aviation lighting and therefore no cumulative effect.

A8.8.110. The aviation lighting on the proposed windfarms at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn y Cefn would appear above the existing static light sources in the valley to the east (right) of the view. As a result of the proposed development there would be an increase in the number of aviation lights seen within the view, although the proposed development would be seen further to the north and not within an area already containing other sources of artificial lighting.

*Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impact*

A8.8.111. The magnitude of visual impact as a result of the aviation lighting on the proposed wind turbines with existing and proposed wind turbines would be medium - low.

*Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect*

A8.8.112. For recreational users, the significance of visual effect is judged to be moderate (not significant).

A8.8.113. For road users, the Significance of visual effect is therefore assessed as moderate - minor (not significant).

**Table A8.76: Summary of Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity – Application-Stage Wind Farm Developments**

Viewpoint Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
2 Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)	Medium (residents) Low (road users)	-	-
3 Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale	Medium (residents and recreational users) Medium - low (road users)	-	-
7 Cwm Tysswg, Junction with B4256	Medium (residents) Low (road users)	-	-
11 B4560 (BBNP)	High (recreational users) Medium (road users)	Medium - low	Moderate (not significant, recreational users) Moderate (not significant, road users)
12 Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Bargoed)	Medium – high (recreational users) Medium - low (road users)	Medium - low	Moderate (not significant, recreational users) Moderate – minor (not significant, road users)

**Statement Of Significance**

A8.8.114. The aviation lighting night time assessment examined the effects on the landscape character and visual amenity of the aviation lighting on the proposed turbines. The significance was judged to be not significant for both landscape character and visual amenity.

**Statement of Competence**

A8.8.115. In line with the 2017 EIA regulations, to ensure the completeness and quality of the ES, a statement of competence, outlining experience and qualifications is provided.

**Table A8.77: Statement of Competence**

Discipline	Consultant	Company	Experience
Landscape Architecture	Stuart J Galpin CMLI	Galpin Landscape Architecture Ltd	Galpin Landscape Architecture prepared the night time Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for the proposed wind turbines. Previously preparing night time LVIAs and a large number of wind turbine LVIA in Wales, Scotland and England.  Stuart is an experienced chartered landscape architect whose role includes the management and provision of specialist landscape architecture services for the full range of LVIAs. His team of landscape architects prepare in-house digital terrain models, ZTVs, wirelines, photomontages, digital plans and on-site surveys and photography.  Qualifications include: BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture Post Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (LI)